

Hafa Adai!

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Criminal charges filed vs Torres

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres now faces criminal charges following a complaint filed by the Office of the Attorney General in Superior Court alleging theft, misconduct in public office, and contempt.



Torres

Assistant attorney general Robert Glass filed the criminal case against Torres last Friday alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

REACTIONS

The Republican Party of the CNMI and the Committee to Elect Torres-Sablan

As you are aware by now, the Attorney General has filed charges against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. The Republican Party has full trust in our justice system, maintains that every person is innocent until proven guilty, and stands

firm with Gov. Torres, first lady Diann Torres, and their family, as they endure what is apparently another politically motivated attack.

We can't help but question the timing and motive of the charges filed against the governor.

The Republican Party is dismayed that the former CNMI Democrat Party chairman, CNMI Attorney

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WITH CNMI AT COMMUNITY LEVEL LOW

Entry rule for domestic travelers eased

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The health declaration form

requirement for those traveling from Guam to Saipan has now been completely lifted.

In a news release last Friday,

the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in conjunction with the COVID-19 Task Force, said the CNMI is now at Com-

munity Level Low based on the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's com-

See **ENTRY** on **Page 4**

T Galleria reopens after 2 years



From left, Marian Aldan-Pierce, retired DFS Saipan president; Rachel Tan, DFS MidPac vice president of operations; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; Richard Gustafson, managing director of DFS for Japan, MidPac, and Korea; and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios cut the ribbon to officially reopen T Galleria of DFS Saipan.

LEIGH GASES

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited reopening of T-Galleria by Duty Free Saipan Ltd. finally happened last Friday, April 8, two years since the luxury mall shuttered its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic that devastated global tourism.

More than 100 local residents and tourists were seen

See **T GALLERIA** on **Page 4**



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Children are seen picking up and running for eggs at the Sugar King Park last Saturday during the Rotary's 2nd Annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza."

LEIGH GASES

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Saipan Musubiya opens at Kada Dia to bring Japanese food to the southern part of Saipan.

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NATION

Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

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WORLD

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warns that Russia is targeting all of Europe.

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Local

Man gets 3-year sentence after pleading guilty to strangulation

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man accused of beating his girlfriend and strangling her for using his phone to call her child's father has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for time served.

Angel Joe Ichihara, 28, pleaded guilty last Wednesday to one count of strangu-

lation before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio during a change of plea hearing.

After accepting his guilty plea, Kim-Tenorio sentenced Ichihara to an imprisonment term of three years, all suspended except for six months, with credit of 49 days he has already served. Upon his release, Ichihara will be placed on supervised probation for three years.

According to court documents, the defendant's girlfriend told police that Ichihara got mad when she called the father of her son using his cell phone.

A few days prior, the victim said she was planning her son's birthday with the son's father, which upset Ichihara. Ichihara then told her she shouldn't have any reason to be contacting him, then punched her left upper arm four times.

She said that while she was lying in bed, Ichihara sat on top of her with both his arms on her neck and repeatedly tried to strangle her. She added that the defendant held her neck for about 30 seconds, and when she tried to get up, he let one hand go from her neck and pulled her hair before continuing to strangle her. She said she repeatedly slapped his wrist to remove his chokehold on her but he made it harder.

When he finally let her go and she was able to get up, Ichihara hit her on the cheek with the back of his left forearm.

In another incident, she said Ichihara threw a fit when she contacted her son's fa-

ther and pushed her with one hand on her left shoulder, causing her to fall onto the bed and landing on her right hip. The victim said Ichihara then put his knee and all his weight on her right hip to hold her down.

Marianas congressional art competition now open

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is inviting high school students in the CNMI to create art and submit their work for a chance to have their art displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year alongside artwork from other contest winners nationwide.

The deadline for submissions to the Marianas Congressional Art Competition is May 4, Wednesday.

Students must submit original artwork and completed student release form to the congressional district office on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota before 5pm on Wednesday, May 4.

Sablan said in his Facebook post that he is looking "forward to seeing your creative work."

Artwork eligibility will be based upon originality in concept, design, and execution. The art must be two-dimensional in form through these accepted mediums: paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer generated art, and photographs. All artwork must be suitable for public display.

"Since the competition be-

gan in 2009, millions of people have seen the acclaimed work of the Northern Marianas' talented young artists," Sablan said last year. "I encourage students to showcase their work to the world and discover something new about themselves along the way."

According to Sablan's Facebook page, the Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

To review the guidelines of the Congressional Art Competition, visit <https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition>.

If you would like more information on the annual Congressional Art Competition—including next year's deadlines—contact Sablan's congressional office at (670)323-2647 on Saipan, (670) 433-2647 on Tinian, or (670) 532-2647 on Rota. *(Leigh Gases)*

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'Senate leadership blocking Torres' impeachment trial'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of the Senate minority bloc asked the Republican-controlled Senate over the weekend to stop what the claim are efforts to block

"the public's right" to the impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said in a statement that, despite Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) insistence

that the House of Representatives failed to timely submit the impeachment record to the Senate clerk, the Senate minority bloc believes that this statement is simply a "ruse to protect Torres" at the expense of Hofschneider's reputation

and the people's right to hold the governor accountable for his impeachable acts.

In the same statement, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate Impeachment Rules are not only tainted and fashioned specifically to pre-

vent the conviction of Torres in the event of a trial, but they highlight the extent the Senate leadership will go "for their puppet-master."

Manglona said at the end of the day, the House, a body beholden to, and representative of, the people of the Commonwealth, lawfully impeached Torres, based on insurmountable evidence.

"Unfortunately for the peo-

ple of the Commonwealth, these Republican senators have chosen to do the bidding of their master," Manglona said.

He said the Senate leadership is composed of Torres' fellow Republicans: Hofschneider, Francisco Q. Cruz, Karl King-Nabors, Victor B. Hocog, and his running mate in the coming Nov. 8 election, Vinnie F. Sablan.

Rota's Gilita Chamorro Festival on April 21-23

The 4th Annual Rota Gilita Chamorro Festival will be held on April 21-23, 2022, and will be held at the Chamorro Village Learning Center in Songsong village, featuring food, music, and handicrafts inspired by Chamorro culture.

The event is organized and sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, Office of the CNMI Governor, the 18th Rota Municipal Council, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Aloha Maid, in collaboration with all municipal departments and the Filipino Community of Rota.

"Gilita" is Chamorro slang for "ginen Lut" or "from Lua," referring to people from Rota.

"We are very excited to reinstate our Gilita Chamorro Festival as we have a diverse group of practitioners with many talents and skills, and we would love to showcase their work to our local residents, friends and neighbors in The Marianas, as well as invite our visitors from other parts of the region," said Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig. "This is a great way to see the uniqueness of Rota's 'gilitas' and the talents they have learned from their parents and grandparents. We want to ensure that we continue to preserve and practice our Chamorro traditions and pro-



A craftsman weaves coconut fronds at the 2019 Gilita Chamorro Festival. The 4th Annual Rota Gilita Chamorro Festival will be held on April 21-22, 2022, in the Marianas. **MVA**

mote our Chamorro heritage."

The festival will open on April 21 from 9a, to 11am with a proclamation signing to signify the revival of the event and to highlight the grant funding received from the Office of the Governor to support and create our Chamorro Village Learning Center. This facility will be used to educate and inform others of the various cultural practices and traditions exhibited by the Chamorro people most specifically how the "gilitas"

on Rota have preserved their cultural heritage. There will also be an island tour to unveil new signage at significant sites around Rota.

On April 22, Chamorrta Day will be held from 9am to 2pm, educating youth, residents and tourists with demonstrations and games. Live entertainment and food competitions begin at 6pm.

On April 23, a cultural exhibition will be held from 9am to 1pm, while an evening

concert feature Northern Star Band and Jay Selepeo will begin at 6pm.

Demonstrations will include weaving, medicine making, sling shot throwing, spear throwing, arts and crafts, and cooking. There will also be cooking classes available to share the process of cooking local delicacies. Entertainment will feature local artists and bands promoting Chamorro music.

"Part of the MVA's 10-year Strategic Plan Toward Sustainable Tourism includes more emphasis on indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture, so we are very excited about what Gilita Chamorro Festival has to offer visitors in terms of authentic experiences," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "It's going to be an extraordinary three days of protecting, preserving, and promoting some of the key practices of the culture, and the MVA is happy to again support this event."

Vendors will also be selling food, handicrafts, Chamorro medicine, and other items during the festival.

For more information, contact the Rota Mayor's Office Program and Grants Division at 1.670.532.9451 Ext. 105. For more information on Rota, visit www.mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**

Torres proposes \$16.09M budget for 2,069 FTEs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has proposed a budget in the grand total of \$16,091,704 to pay 2,069 full-time employees of the central government in fiscal year 2023 using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

According to Torres' proposed budget submitted Friday to the Legislature, the Executive Branch will receive a total of \$10,817,560 in ARPA for 1,217 FTEs.

For Rota, \$1,677,116 will be given to pay for 293 FTEs. For Tinian and Aguiguan, \$1,472,000 will be budgeted for 270 FTEs. For Saipan and Northern Islands, \$564,585 is budgeted for 101 FTEs. For boards and commissions, \$265,229 is budgeted for 38 FTEs. For independent programs, \$1,295,214 is allocated for 109 FTEs.

Under the Executive Branch, \$209,487 is budgeted for 13 FTEs at the Office of the Governor, and \$109,012 for 10 FTEs at the Office of Lt. Governor.

A total of \$2,652,717 is

budgeted for 140 FTEs in other offices of the governor and lieutenant governor.

The other proposed budgets under the executive branch are the following:

- \$340,842 for 50 FTEs: Department of Commerce.
- \$315,703 for 65 FTEs: Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.
- \$803,155 for 117 FTEs: Department of Corrections.
- \$1,116,964 for 158 FTEs: Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- \$2,328,174 for 236 FTEs: Department of Finance
- \$170,151 for 22 FTEs: Department of Labor
- \$528,182 for 93 FTEs: Department of Lands and Natural Resources.
- \$1,368,815 for 213 FTEs: Department of Public Safety.
- \$874,358 for 100 FTEs: Department of Public Works.

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T GALLERY

From Page 1

waiting in line to get inside the mall before 12pm, and the line extended past the Hafa Adai Roasting Co. on the west side of the building as invited guests, dignitaries, and DFS staff held the pre-opening program in front of the entrance.

Richard Gustafson, managing director of DFS for Japan, MidPac, and Korea, said he opening has been long awaited. "We've been just counting the days and minutes until we'd be able to reopen and welcome all of our staff, all of our community, all of our esteemed dignitaries back to DFS," he said. "We're so thrilled today to be able to contribute, change the course of the future, help this island as people get back to normalcy, and hopefully have some fun shopping along the way... Again, thank you to all of you... a very big welcome back and a very big Biba DFS!"

DFS is now open daily from 1pm to 7pm.

To formalize the occasion, Gustafson was joined by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and retired DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce in cutting the ribbon. A cultural dance group from Pacific Islands

Club Saipan also performed. The mall's doors were finally opened to the public at 1pm and, as they entered, some shoppers were quite emotional, becoming teary eyed.

When asked how they felt about DFS finally opening, a group of shoppers said, "We feel really happy. It's more convenient to get access to luxury brands rather than buying them online."

Although only a third of the store is currently open, Gustafson said that they wanted to open as soon as we could... We were very excited to see the recovery in the travel forecasts and tourism coming into Saipan, and so it was time... The next third of the store we're planning for this summer, probably around June. Some of the higher-end luxury brands, their production is slower and our ability to move the inventory here also takes longer."

DFS also welcomed back about 30 employees. According to Gustafson, "two thirds of them are former employees, which are some of our best from before, many of them with 10, 15, and 20 years of experience. For some of them also, it was kind of a homecoming."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres. The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena.

In a statement announcing the filing of the charges, Attorney General Edward Manibusan said the charges were filed after months of investigation.

"The charges follow months of thorough investigation by the Office of the Attorney General Investigator Division. The next steps in the process will be to have Gov. Torres arraigned and allow the case to proceed in accordance with the criminal justice system. As this is now an active case, neither I, nor my office, can provide further comments," he said.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Governor issued a statement regarding the pending case yesterday.

"The CNMI Office of the Governor has received a copy of the charges filed by the Attorney General against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. The Office of the Governor trusts in the CNMI's justice system and declines to comment further on the pending litigation. The matter has been forwarded to

Gov. Torres' private counsel," it said.

According to the complaint against Torres, the first two counts of misconduct in public office goes back to April 12, 2018, when Torres allegedly issued himself and his wife first-class airline tickets paid for by local funds.

"On or about April 12, 2018, on Saipan, Torres, while being governor of the CNMI, violated 1 CMC § 7407(f) in that he caused to be issued airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself [and Diann Torres] using Commonwealth funds, in violation of and made punishable by 6 CMC § 3202," the complaint stated.

Torres allegedly repeated these violations on June 8, July 11, Aug. 13, Aug. 16, Sept. 25, Nov. 15, Nov. 27, and Dec. 18, 2018, making up the remaining 10 counts of misconduct in public office.

Aside from 12 counts of misconduct, the OAG also charged Torres with theft for the same violations.

Lastly, the OAG is accusing Torres of contempt for his failure to comply with the House Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations' subpoena on Dec. 10, 2021. Torres has already filed suit to contest the power of the committee to subpoena him. A decision in the matter is expected soon.

Solomon Islands says China deal won't include military base

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Seeking to counter international fears over its new security alliance with China, the Solomon Islands said Friday it won't allow China to build a military base there.

But that insistence will do little to ease concerns about the pact from the nation's traditional partners that include New Zealand, Australia and the United States.

The leader of neighboring Micronesia added his voice to those expressing trepidation by invoking the bloody battles of World War II and warning that the pact could again see the South Pacific region become a battleground for much larger powers.

The Solomon Islands government said Thursday a draft agreement of the new security pact had been initiated by representatives from the Solomons and China and would be "cleaned up" and signed.

In a statement Friday, the Solomon Islands government said that "contrary to the misinformation promot-



AP
Graffiti written on the burnt out buildings from riots in Honiara's Chinatown from Nov. 2021, is seen in the Solomon Islands, Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

ed by antigovernment commentators" the agreement did not invite China to establish a military base.

"Government is conscious of the security ramification of hosting a military base, and it will not be careless to allow such initiative to take place under its watch," the statement said.

The statement seemed to

more emphatically rule out the possibility of a base after Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare had earlier told parliament it had no intention of asking China to build a base.

Sogavare said his nation sought only peace and prosperity, citing its foreign policy mantra: "We are friends to all and enemies to none." He said

it wasn't a secret deal but a sovereign issue.

Under the terms of the draft agreement, China could send police, military personnel and other armed forces to the Solomon Islands "to assist in maintaining social order" and for a variety of other reasons. It could also send warships to the islands for stopovers and to replenish supplies, which had led to speculation about the possibility of China establishing a naval base on the South Pacific islands.

China has denied seeking a military foothold in the islands and accused others of raising tensions.

Apparently referring to the U.S. and its allies, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Friday blamed others for militarizing the South Pacific and said the agreement with the Solomon Islands was predicated on maintaining the safety of lives and property and "does not have any military overtones."

ENTRY

From Page 1

munity level metric system. With that, CHCC completely lifts the need for a health declaration form for those who traveling domestically—whether you're vaccinated or not.

"Effective April 8, domestic travelers inbound via air or sea are not required to fill out the health declaration form," the CHCC press release stated.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña clarified that domestic travelers include travelers from Guam, Rota, or Tinian.

However, international travelers are still required to fill out the health declaration form due to outbound testing requirements at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

All travelers should continue to wear a well-fitted mask after arrival if they must be around others, and if they develop symptoms, they should

COVID-19 Community Level in the CNMI	
Current Status	LOW
Data up to April 6, 2022	
Summary: Metrics indicate LOW Community Level.	
New COVID-19 Cases per 100k (7-day total)	59
New COVID-19 Admissions per 100k (7-day total)	0.0
% of staffed beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	2.4%

get tested at least five days after arrival.

Meanwhile, there aren't any major changes in terms of COVID-19 protocols within the community.

Similar to when the CNMI hit Community Level Medium, masks remain a personal preference in Community Level Low.

Individuals who are immunocompromised are encouraged to ask their healthcare providers whether they should continue to wear masks or not.

CHCC encourage everyone to have a plan for rapid testing, like home tests kits.

Individuals should also contact their healthcare providers to inquire if they are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and monoclonal antibodies.

In addition, all CNMI residents are encouraged to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible, and follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symp-

toms of COVID-19.

Individuals who are experiencing mild symptoms may get tested at designated testing sites, rather than in the CHCC emergency department as it is not a testing site.

Individuals can get tested at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center, which is open seven days a week from 8am to 4pm.

Local pharmacies and stores now carry at-home COVID-19 test kits for those who are interested. Free at-home COVID-19 test kits are also available at www.covidtests.gov.

REACTION

From Page 1

General Ed Manibusan, would file the charges over three-years later but six months before a general election and days before the commencement of an already ongoing process on the same.

However, rather than delving into our reasons at this time, we choose to focus on the bigger picture and the road ahead. As persons of faith, and as part of a family that chooses to uphold love and respect among ourselves and toward others, we choose not to react with anger and malice toward those who do not support our political views. Instead, we

ask that everyone trust in our justice system, in God, and in the goodness of each other and our intentions. (PR)

'Commonwealth has entered uncharted territory'

In a statement issued by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, he said, "Gov. Torres is innocent until proven guilty and his due process rights should be respected."

The lieutenant governor went on to state that the Commonwealth has entered uncharted territory.

"For the first time in our history, a sitting governor has been criminally charged with multiple counts of misconduct

in public office, theft and contempt. This is indeed unfortunate and is a blemish to the CNMI," Palacios said.

Earlier this year, after several months of committee hearings and testimonies by multiple witnesses, the House of Representatives impeached Torres on allegations of felonies of theft, corruption and neglect of duty, by a vote of 15 to 4 and one abstention.

Although the impeachment trial remains to be scheduled in the Senate, Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider ruled that the House impeachment record was deficient. Hofschneider also denied the House of Representative's request for an extension.

"Despite recent events, the filing of the Information by the attorney general demonstrates that we continue to uphold the rule of law and that no one is above the law," Palacios said. "Now, more than ever, we must come together and rise above the politics. Let us allow the legal process to take its course and let us respect the rule of law. To our people, let us not relish in the governor's current dilemma. Instead, we must unite, heal and move our Commonwealth forward, together. May God bless our Commonwealth." (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Over 700 attend Rotary's 2nd annual 'Easter Egg-stravaganza'

By **LEIGH GASES**
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CORRESPONDENT

Over 700 children and their parents gathered at the Sugar King Park in Garapan at 9am

DPS chief motion to dismiss illegal OT suit could affect others who also received OT

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General says the recent motion filed by Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero to dismiss the illegal overtime lawsuit filed against him would affect others believed to have also received illegal overtime for work done during Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Guerrero's recently filed motion could change the course of the complaint and he intends to file a response soon.

"We received the motion and will file our response in due time. The outcome of this case may determine the course of those Cabinet members who are similarly situated," he said.

Guerrero, through his lawyer, Matthew T. Gregory, filed a motion to dismiss the OAG's lawsuit against him last Monday, saying the claims alleged are outside the statute of limitations. Because of this, Gregory said their motion to dismiss should be granted without leave to amend.

Gregory argued that the Commonwealth Code has a two-year statute of limitations in

on a cloudy and windy Saturday morning for the Saipan Rotary Club's 2nd annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza," which featured over 3,000 eggs scattered all over the park

for the children to hunt.

This year's event was a bigger one, with more participants, more eggs, more prizes, and more activities than what was held last year at the first Easter egg hunting event by the Rotary.

Besides the eggs, participants were given a free decorated Easter goody bag filled with snacks and goodies, were also able to take a picture with the Rotary mascot Easter Bunny, and enjoyed the free bouncy house, slides, and face painting and body tattoos at the NMI museum grounds.

After the egg hunting event

at the Sugar King Park took place, children, parents and the rest of the community were invited down to the NMI Museum grounds for the winners to collect their prizes and to enjoy the vendors and booths of small businesses that were present.

The event was divided into two segments: the Easter Egg Hunt, with participants divided into four groups (toddlers, preschool, elementary, and middle school) and the Easter Egg Decoration Contest, which had high school student participants.

"We expected more [chil-

dren] this year but we didn't expect to get this much. But now with the pandemic settling down, it was expected to get more participation and that is what we wanted. We wanted more of the community and families and kids to come out. ...We wanted to give them something to enjoy," said Joann Aquino, director of community service of the Rotary Club. "I think it's really turned out well, and I'm so glad for the weather" as it was forecasted that bad weather was imminent over the weekend, but "we were just praying for a good day today for the children."

Ben Babauta, owner of Tyler's Gelatte Stone and orga-

nizer of the Small Business Sunday at the Sugar King Park, said they did their sixth Small Business Sunday on a Saturday and partnered with the Rotary Club of Saipan and the CNMI Museum to showcase 19 small businesses at the event.

Ivan Ilmov, president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, said this was their second "Easter Egg-stravaganza" and they're planning to make it an annual event.

"Thank you so much to all participants who came today. We really want to also thank the support of the mayor, the NMI Museum for the donations to make this event successful. ...We appreciate the strong support from the community," he said.



Guerrero

place for actions against the "director of Public Safety" for "any act or omission in connection with the performance of official duties." In this case, Gregory said, the defendant is the commissioner of Public Safety, which is an identical position to the director of Public Safety.

The lawyer added that aside from his position, that statute also applied here because Guerrero received these payments for acts directly related to his official duties.

"The statute of limitations merely requires that the act be in 'connection' to official duties. As such the statute of limitations applies to all the claims in this lawsuit," he said.

In addition, Gregory said the OAG did not plead facts to show an exception to the statute of limitations. "The exceptions to the statute of limitations deals with the disabilities of the minor or the insane, partial payment on accounts, an extension due to absence of time of a party from the Commonwealth, and an extension in cases involving fraudulent concealment. No such facts have been alleged in the complaint. The acts alleged clearly took place more than two years prior to the filing of complaint," he said.

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com
Attorney for: Petitioner Magdalena Wesley Torres

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER : PROBATE CASE
OF THE : NO. 22-0078CV

ESTATE OF :
JESUS WESLEY : NOTICE OF HEARING ON
TORRES, : PETITION TO PROBATE and
Deceased : NOTICE TO CREDITORS

DATE: Thurs, May 5, 2022
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
JESUS WESLEY TORRES OR OF HIS ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Magdalena Wesley Torres, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of JESUS WESLEY TORRES, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to Probate the Estate of Decedent is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:00am, at CNMI Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq., at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2022

By: /s/

CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioner Rosemond B. Santos-Sword

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE :
MATTER OF THE : CIVIL ACTION
ESTATE OF : NO. 22-0079

MARIA LUISA : NOTICE OF
BLANCO SANTOS, : HEARING and
Deceased : NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC, CREDITORS,
AND INTERESTED CLAIMANTS OF THE DECEDENT
OR HER ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Rosemond B. Santos-Sword, Esq., of Saipan, CNMI, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Probate of Will, Letters Testamentary, and to be appointed Executrix of the Estate of Maria Luisa Blanco Santos, deceased. The attorney of record is Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 5th day of May, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., before The Honorable Judge Joseph N. Camacho, in Courtroom No. 220 of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice - Guma Hustisia - Imwal Awewe, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the decedent or her estate are required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice, or the claim(s) shall be forever barred. A copy of such claim should be provided to Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., at the above indicated address.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2022.

Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Terms and conditions apply. 24-month contract required. Advertised pricing available on the Device Payment Plan (DPP) only. Subject to credit check. Fuel vouchers available while supplies last. Raffle entry period is from 4/1/22 - 5/31/22. 1 entry per sign up. Drawing will be held on 6/1/22. See stores for details.



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FEDERAL LAW REQUIRE THAT WE VERIFY THE IDENTITY AND WORK ELIGIBILITY OF ALL NEW HIRES
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2nd COVID-19 vaccine booster available

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration, are now offering a second COVID-19 vaccine booster shot to individuals aged 50 years and older and certain immunocompromised individuals.

Eligible individuals can obtain a booster shot by walking into the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center mass vaccination site, Tuesday to Saturday, 8am to 4pm, and requesting the additional dose.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at select private clinics, such as Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as the following CHCC outpatient clinics: Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

Eligible individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & John-

» For individuals 50 years and older and certain immunocompromised individuals

son/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may receive a second booster shot at least four months after completing their first booster. The second booster shot must be an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).

Individuals considered moderate to severe immunocompromised (weakened immune system) include people on chemotherapy or people who have had a solid organ transplant. For more information regarding who may be eligible for a second booster shot, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. The list presented does not include all possible conditions that put a person at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Individuals who have questions about booster doses should talk to their health care provider about their medical condition and whether getting a booster shot is appropriate for them.

For more information on

receiving a booster shot, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who have received a booster.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shots. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur. (PR)

'12 CNMI restaurants got \$1.9M'

Twelve CNMI applicants received \$1.9 million in federal grants ranging from \$37,128 to \$348,277 but, according to the National Restaurant Association, there remain 107 restaurants from the islands that did not get help.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that businesses impacted by COVID-19 pandemic that applied for but were unable to secure relief funds from the American Rescue Plan would have a second chance under H.R. 3807 that was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday.

Sablan said H.R. 3807, or the Relief for Restaurants and Hard Hit Small Business Act, which he cosponsored, provides \$42 billion to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund for applicants that were not previously funded.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which administers the \$28.6-billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act, opened the application period on May 3, 2021. This relief does not have to be repaid, provided that the funds are put toward eligible uses by March 11, 2023.

This time around, funds will be prioritized to assist first those who have suffered the greatest percentage revenue losses. The bill also provides \$13 billion for a new Hard Hit Industries Award Program to help firms with 200 or fewer employees that have experienced 40% or more in lost revenue.

H.R. 3807 is now pending consideration in the Senate. (Ferdie de la Torre)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Earhart, LLC

Suite 208, DHL Building, Middle Road
P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Accountant

Job Duties:

Prepare, review, and analyze financial statements or other accounting records for accuracy, completeness, consistency and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and other standard accounting procedures. Maintain an accurate and complete recording of receipts, disbursements, income, and expenses utilizing the company's accounting software. Calculate taxes owed. Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual tax returns, including but not limited to, monthly business gross receipts tax, estimated tax, employer's quarterly withholding tax, 941-SS employer's quarterly federal tax, W-2 wage and tax statement, W-3SS transmittal of wage and tax statements, annual reconciliation of withholding taxes withheld, corporate income tax, ensuring adherence to requirements for payment, filing, and reporting with the federal and local tax government agencies. Prepare checklist for new clients and review accounting engagement tasks. Review billable and non-billable expenses including adjustments to ensure that the coding of billing and expenses are accurate within established practices. Prepare and analyze client's billing and respond to inquiries regarding billing issues and problems. Review check requisitions ensuring validity of transactions, proper authorization and supporting documentation and general ledger coding consistent with company's prescribed policies and procedures for financial operations. Review and calculate employees time record. Maintain and administer payroll data. Provide analytical review of income and operating expenditures by performing periodic reconciliation of accounts. Prepare ad hoc reports and analysis as requested by the management. Perform other duties as required and assigned.

Location of Employment: Saipan

Applicants for this position must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with 60 months work experience as an Accountant. Interested applicants should send their application and resume to the employer (by mail: P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950; by email: Where_Is_Amelia@hotmail.com).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-DPW-42200091

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 04, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Commercial Air-Conditioning Units Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning March 11, 2022, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit cards. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Bid Package. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the bidder awarded for this project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary bonding requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 29, 2022 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential bidders an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting bid, bidders who intend to submit a bid are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Dennis Cruz and Sandy Camacho of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6596-(Dennis) and (670)237-6507-(Sandy). Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, April 05, 2022.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Air-Conditioning Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport & Port of Saipan/IFB-003-22". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 11, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m., April 11, 2022 and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

March 07, 2022

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

DATE

Pohnpeian earns graduate degree at Sophia University in Tokyo

TOKYO, Japan—Annette Rose Ludwig of the Federated States of Micronesia recently became the sixth Micronesian to earn a master’s degree in Global Environment Studies from Sophia University’s Graduate School of Environmental Studies in Tokyo.

Ludwig, who is from Pohnpei, graduated in March. She was a research assistant at the Herbarium of the University of Guam before she began her graduate studies.

Ludwig attended Sophia University, one of Japan’s top research universities, on

a highly competitive full-ride scholarship for citizens of the FSM, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. The scholarship is offered by the Micronesia Conservation Trust, Sophia University, and the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private founda-

tion in Tokyo. Ludwig is one of nine Micronesians who have been awarded the scholarship to Sophia University. The scholarship supports training Micronesians for regional environmental leadership roles.



Ludwig

“[MCT], Sophia University, [APIC] and partners of the Micronesia Challenge are extremely proud of Annette,” said William Kostka, executive director of MCT.

Sophia University provides full tuition scholarships, while APIC covers travel and room and board expenses. MCT, through the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Program, covers the cost of internships for the scholarship students, which includes

bringing them back home during their breaks to work with their host institutions and mentors. This allows the students to stay close to their local partners, which has resulted in 100% of the graduates returning to lead programs on each of their islands.

Ludwig, who was raised in Fiji, did an internship with the Pohnpei State Forestry in 2020 while in graduate school. During the internship, she was able to conduct research that sparked her interest in land-use change in Pohnpei. Her master’s thesis focused on current agricultural practices on Pohnpei and the effects of sakau production in watershed areas. Sakau is also known as kava, ava and yaqona in other

parts of the Pacific. Ludwig hopes to return to Pohnpei to continue working with Pohnpei State and the communities with their forestry management programs.

While she studied in Tokyo, Ludwig was active in the off-campus New Hope Christian Fellowship and a Christian circle at Sophia University. She was also passionate about learning the Japanese language. Ludwig joined a weekly Japanese course held at APIC’s office next to Sophia and studied hard to develop her language skills. In addition to classroom work, the language students participated in trips to Mt. Takao near Tokyo as leaves were changing colors in autumn, and enjoyed Christmas light displays in the popular Shibuya neighborhood. **(PR)**

Public warned of strong winds, rough seas

The public is being warned that a wind advisory remains in effect until 6pm today, Monday. A small craft advisory also remains in effect until 6am today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, east winds of

25 to 35 mph and gusts of over 40 mph, with possible in heavy showers, are expected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6pm today.

Gusty winds could blow around unsecured objects. Tree limbs could be blown down and a few power outages may result. Winds will be stronger in higher terrain. The public

is advised to use extra caution when driving, especially if operating a high profile vehicle. Secure outdoor objects.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these hazardous conditions. **(Saipan Tribune)**

Power interruptions on Tue., Wed.

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on April 12 and 13, 2022.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

■ Momentary Outage Time: 9am to 9:30am and 12:30pm to 1pm

o Area(s) Affected: Chalan Kiya.

■ Purpose: To install additional cross arms and clamps to support the existing Kiya Feeder riser cables and to install a guy support on the riser pole.

■ Circuit: Kiya 3

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

■ Outage Time: 12pm to 4pm

o Area(s) Affected: portions of Koblerville.

■ Momentary Outage Time: 12pm to 12:30pm and 3:30pm to 4pm

o Area(s) affected: Kobler-

ville (Koblerville Road, Es-sok Avenue, Tinala Avenue, Katdo Court, Tinaktak Drive, Kelaguen Street, Bibingka Avenue, Ice Keki Street, Tamales Court, Eskabeche Avenue, Fritada Court, Ilotes Way and Gollai Appan Court) and parts of Tun Kiyoshi Road (Pontan Drive, Bulachu Place, Gaole Drive, Pokkat Lane). See map with red lined areas.

■ Purpose: To replace a wooden power pole to a concrete power pole and to relocate the air brake switch.

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well(s) affected: KV-21, KV-22, KV-23 and KV-24 wells, therefore water services to Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Su-supe and Oleai may be affected based on tank level.

■ Wastewater facility affected: None. **(PR)**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Prepares and maintains cash receipts journal, cash disbursements journal, sales journal and journal entries. Supervise and assist accounting staff and person-in-charge in preparing payroll, payroll reports and statements, proper recording of production reports and proper functioning of inventory controls. Reconciles bank accounts. Prepares monthly, quarterly and annual tax returns. Operates computer programmed accounting system such as Great Plains and Quick Books. Perform other related duties that may be assigned from time to time.

QUALIFICATION:

- Bachelor's Degree, Accountancy or Banking and Finance
- 24 months experience as an Accountant
- Proficient in Microsoft Office and accounting software such as Quick Books and Great Plains

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ELECTRICIAN

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment or fixtures based on job specifications and local codes. Inspect electrical systems, equipment or components to identify hazards, defects or the need for adjustment or repair and to ensure compliance with codes. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment or fixtures using testing devices to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers or other components. Conducts routine maintenance and testing on buildings and batching plant electrical systems and ensure installations are to manufacturer standards. Assess the parts needed for a job and place orders for those parts.

QUALIFICATION:

- Must have knowledge in using testing devices such as ohmmeters and voltmeters.
- Must have minimum 24 months work experience as an Electrician.

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKERS, GENERAL

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Inspects and identifies equipment or machines in need of repair. Troubleshoots issues to determine necessary repairs. Plans repair work using building blueprints or equipment manual as needed. Perform general repairs that do not require a specialized technician. May include repairing drywall, painting and repairing doors and other building fixtures. Perform routine maintenance on buildings. Cleans and assists with the upkeep of the facilities. Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION:

Ability to follow instructions from supervisors or senior maintenance workers. Knowledge of general carpentry and repair. Ability to use hand tools and power tools. Must have minimum 12 months of work experience.

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission
Guma' Hustisia / Iimlaw Aweewe / House of Justice
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - b. Proof of Notice of Meeting
 - c. Review and Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Reports of the Executive Director and Committees
 - a. Office & Staff Update
 - i. New Staff and Temporary Relocation
 - ii. Outreach, Training, and Travel
 - iii. Informational Updates on Copyright Law
 - b. Publications & Website: Status, Issues, & Plans
 - i. Supreme Court Opinions, Superior Court Orders, NMI Reporter
 - ii. CMC
 - iii. NMIA
 - iv. Driver's Handbook
 - v. New .gov Domain
 - c. Miscellaneous Projects
 - d. Sales and Other Reports
 - e. FY 2022 and FY 2023 Budget & Expenditures
3. Unfinished Business
4. New Business
5. Public Comment
6. Place and Date of Next Meeting
7. Other Matters



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17"* and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US \$250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files in the DVD.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director, at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6505.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically referenced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible". This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2022

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

No return to normal for a Putin-led Russia

The images and verified reports of atrocities committed in Ukraine should mark the point of no return for relations with a Vladimir Putin-led Russia. As long as the bloody-handed dictator controls that nation, the United States must keep its back turned on Moscow.

President Joe Biden is right. Putin is a war criminal who must be prosecuted for the crimes committed against the Ukrainian people.

Over the weekend, Russian troops pulled back from the suburbs of Kyiv, leaving behind streets strewn with the bodies of civilians.

Many appeared to have been gunned down as they walked or bicycled through Bucha, the town believed to have suffered the most victims.

Some of the dead were found with their hands tied behind their backs, shot in execution style.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy toured the region and reported finding “bodies in barrels, basements, strangled, tortured.”

Other accounts say girls and women were raped and killed, their bodies burned.

At least 410 civilians were murdered, with independent journalists covering the war confirming many of the killings.

Intentionally killing unarmed civilians is a violation of international law. Biden is asking that Putin face war crime charges before the International Criminal Court. The indictment should also extend to his sycophantic sidekick Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarussian president who is supplying troops and material to Russia's war effort.

The officers and soldiers carrying out the atrocities should be fully aware that they, too, will be held to account for their actions.

Russia has been waging a merciless air attack against Ukraine's cities, leading to the deaths of thousands of civilians. It has also prevented the evacuation of the bomb-ravaged port of Mariupol, and has blocked international aid from reaching trapped citizens.

Putin perhaps thought he could roll over Ukraine, as he did Georgia and Crimea, and return to sit at the table of civilized nations as if nothing happened.

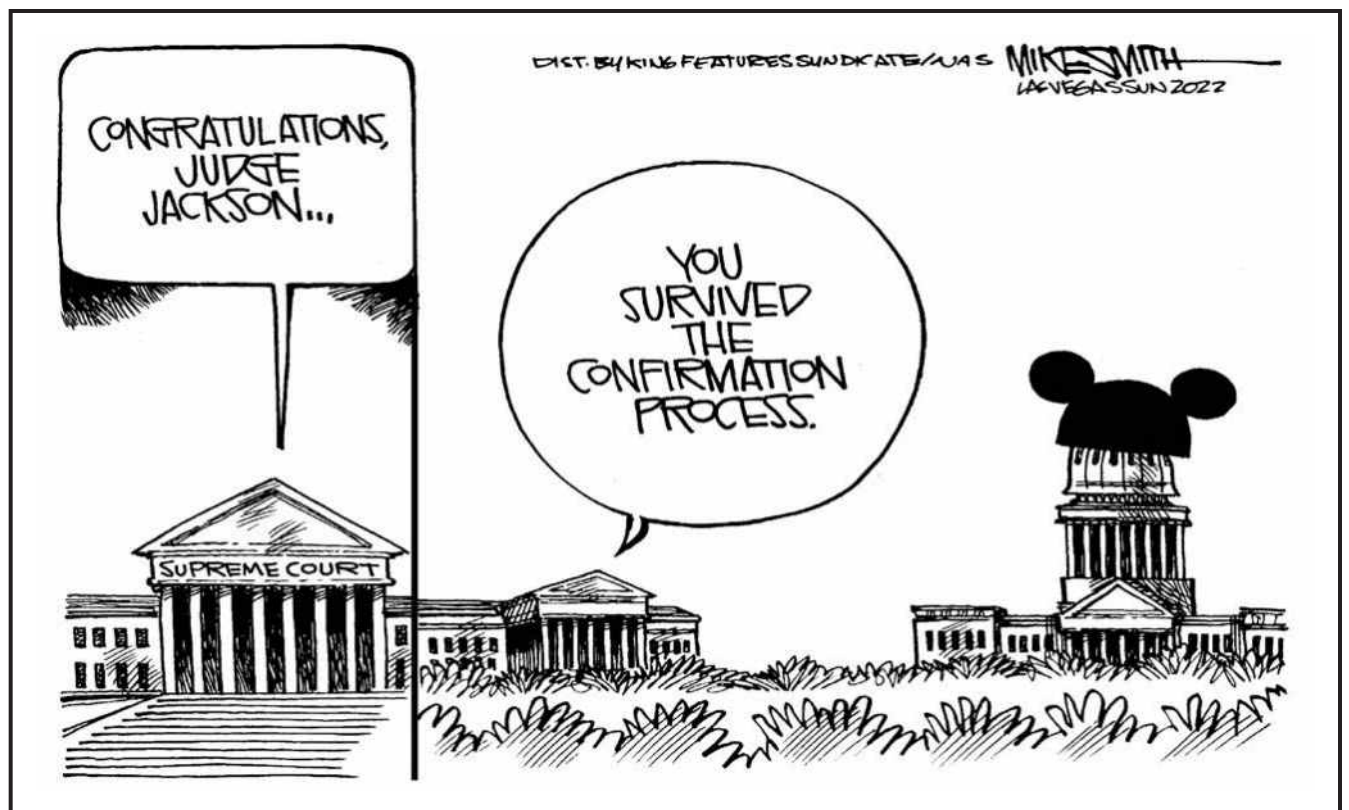
That can't be permitted. Russia and Belarus must be fully shunned until Putin and Lukashenko are no longer in charge.

The United States intends to ask the United Nations to expel Russia from the body's Human Rights Council. That vote should be automatic, given the slaughter in Bucha.

The U.S. and its European allies should also be thinking longer term about a return to what basically must be a Cold War relationship with Russia.

That means learning to live without the oil, grain and other resources Russia exports. The free world has become far too dependent on Russia and other oppressive regimes. The

See RUSSIA on Next Page



Why pictures of the horrors in Ukraine can strengthen our political will

On Tuesday, in a dramatic and furious speech to the United Nations Security Council, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented graphic atrocity photographs from Bucha—including close-ups of dead children and clumps of corpses, some with their hands tied behind their backs. “The chamber fell silent,” the New York Times reported, and the photographs ricocheted around the world. Almost immediately, the European Commission proposed to cut off coal imports from Russia and President Joe Biden vowed additional sanctions.

The pictures, apparently, had done their job.

But images can't make political decisions. Photographs can't do our thinking for us, though sometimes they can nudge us a bit. It is doubtful that the Bucha photographs will significantly alter the course of the war. What they can do and have done is strengthen a political will that already existed—what the photography critic Susan Sontag called “a relevant political consciousness”—to fight Russia's aggression. They echo the already deep sense of outrage and revulsion, on the part of governments and ordinary citizens, toward the war and those who launched it. The images tell us something that, in a sense, we already knew.

Horrible photographs like those shown at the U.N. help us do what we were primed to do, but history shows they can rarely do more.

The Ukraine war is being compared to the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s, and in some ways the comparison is apt. Here, once again, a fledgling democracy is fighting a fierce dictatorship. A people's army, composed in large part of ordinary civilians, is fighting a far larger and better equipped foe (in Spain, it was the forces of Francisco Franco, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini). Civilians are mercilessly targeted, especially from the air. And in both cases, images helped to tell the story of the struggle.

Writers, poets, journalists and photographers flocked to Spain to support the republic. The war was indelibly photographed by, most prominently, Robert Capa. His depictions of the anti-Franco fighters—some far too young, others far too old—were imbued with something close to tenderness. Here, he seemed to say, were men who were willing to kill, and die, for their freedom, but who did not want to kill or die. Capa sought to mobilize support for the Spanish Republic on the basis of respect, not pity. Many newspaper and television images of the Ukrainian fighters strikingly echo this sensibility.

Capa and his colleagues, especially Gerda Taro and David (“Chim”) Seymour, photographed the war with an explicit political aim: military intervention by the liberal democracies. They failed. In the U.S., France and England, the political will for intervention was weak if not absent, especially on the part of governments. Five months after the end of the Spanish war, Hitler invaded Poland and instigated World War II.

The so-called Caesar photographs from Syria represent another instance of the failure of images—or, rather, on the part of those who saw them to take action. Caesar is the code name of a

By **SUSIE LINFIELD**
Los Angeles Times

Susie Linfield, a journalism professor at New York University, is the author of *The Cruel Radiance: Photography and Political Violence*.



government photographer from Syria; with the outbreak of that country's civil war, his duties changed. Now, instead of photographing mundane events like car accidents, he was told to document the incomprehensibly cruel tortures that President Bashar Assad's dictatorship has committed on an enormous scale.

Caesar's images are among the worst I have ever seen, and far more disgusting than anything yet shown from Bucha. They depict bodies—people—who have been slowly starved to death; whose faces have been mutilated by knives; whose eyes have been gouged out, apparently while they were still alive. (It is not exactly clear why the Assad regime has recorded its own atrocities, though this suggests both a confident sense of impunity and a kind of moral derangement.)

Horried by what he was seeing, Caesar and a friend spent two years smuggling tens of thousands of torture photographs out of the country, which put them and their families at risk of death. The photographs have been verified by forensic experts, including the FBI, and in 2014 were widely circulated in major newspapers, on the websites of human rights organizations and at the United Nations. Caesar, who now lives under witness protection in Europe, testified, in disguise, before Congress. Perhaps more important, his photographs were shown to world leaders including then-Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Laurent Fabius, then foreign minister of France. Like Capa, Caesar hoped the images would change the world's attitude toward the war.

The effect of the photographs was ... zero. No liberal democracy had any intention of significant involvement in the Syrian civil war, especially in light of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Assad, whose major ally is Russian President Vladimir Putin, has dismissed the photographs as propaganda and suggested they might have been Photoshopped.

Now it is the Kremlin claiming that atrocity photos are fakes and trying to discredit the images from Bucha, which is one of the many bitter ironies of this war. After Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Russians began circulating photographs of Nazi atrocities to the West. Some of these photographs were taken by Russian army photographers; others were plucked off the bodies of dead German soldiers, who had snapped what we might call atrocity mementos. In 1942, the Soviets, whose casualties would

See UKRAINE on Next Page

Uniquely human

By **SHARLEEN SABLAN**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Autism is on the rise. Have you noticed? It's pretty common for most people to have had some sort of interaction with a person with autism. Sometimes the link is direct, like a parent who cares for a child with autism. Sometimes it's an acquaintance, like meeting a coworker's child with autism. No matter what the connection is, it seems like autism is just more present—because it is. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that back in the year 2000, autism spectrum disorder, ASD, affected 1 in 150 children. Today, autism affects 1 in 44 children. What does that mean? It means that there is a significant number of adults with autism and an even larger number of children with autism who will grow up to be part of our communities. So let's take a look at how we interact with people with autism.

The CDC defines ASD as a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. What does it mean to have significant social, communication,

and behavioral challenges? That part can be tricky to describe. Although there are common signs of ASD like avoiding eye contact, repetitive actions, or stimming (unusual movements or noises), the overall variation and severity of these symptoms are innumerable. This is the reason autism is described as a spectrum. There's a saying by Dr. Stephen Share that goes: "If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism."

April is Autism Awareness Month. In the spirit of inclusion this month and every month, I encourage everyone to read the book *Uniquely Human* by Dr. Barry M. Prizant. This book looks at autism with the intention of understanding—not changing the individual. It talks about the different ways people with autism process the world and the variety of reasons they might do things that seem unusual to the rest of the world. It asks us to look at the reason a person with autism does what he does. It asks us to adjust the way we react instead of trying to change the person with autism.

Let's celebrate the many ways a person with autism is unique and embrace the new ways we can interact with persons with autism. Ask anyone whose lives have been touched by autism. They

will tell you of all the great joys, the triumphs, and the endless love they find every day. They will say that, no matter how familiar or foreign the interaction with autism is, it is always worth it.

Scan here for "What is Autism Spectrum Disorder" from the CDC's website.



The book *Uniquely Human* by Dr. Barry M. Prizant is available for loan at the Family 2 Family Health Information Center at the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. They can be contacted Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm at (670) 664-8700 or f2fhiccnmi@gmail.com.

If you feel that you or someone you know has been discriminated against because of a physical or mental disability, contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273/4. Visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NMPASI, or on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Sharleen Sablan is a project specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Ukraine and Crimea poems of 2014 revisited

"The passage of life should show; it should abrade. And when life stops, a certain space—however small— should be left scarred by the grand and damaging parade. Things shouldn't be so hard."

—an excerpt from Kay Ryan's poem, *Things Shouldn't Be So Hard*

As luck of the Irish would have it, a box of books and poems I thought lost to typhoons on Tinian arrived here on Saipan on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. It had been sent from Tinian to Las Vegas and arrived there after I left to return here in November 2021. Among the poems were four different types of poems I had written about Putin's blitzkrieg annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol in March 2014. Ironically they were written eight years ago (I had dated them) during the same time frame now in March 2022 that Putin is making war in Ukraine. Readers may find that the similarities in Putin's tactics are ironic and deliberate with the month and date of current hostilities.

Also interesting for purposes of inclusion here is that April is National Poetry Month and I wrote four different types of poems back then about Putin's expansion of the Russian Empire. One of the poems is a villanelle, which is a French verse form consisting of five three-line stanzas and a final quatrain, with the first and third lines of the first stanza repeating alternately in the following stanzas. I have approximated the form here. Nothing has been changed or revised in the poems, their titles, and dates as I noted back then.

RUSSIA

From Page 8

United States must never be in a position in which its economic interests discourage it from standing up to brutality.

Europe appears split on how to respond to the war crimes. France advocates a ratcheting down of energy imports from Russia while increasing sanctions. Poland wants an immediate cut-off of fossil fuels.

"Would you negotiate with Hitler, with Stalin, with Pol Pot?" asked Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

In entering Ukraine and ruthlessly killing its people, Putin and Lukashenko joined the ranks of tyrants who have committed offenses against humanity.

They should be ostracized from trade organizations, scientific collaborations and all other interactions with nations that observe and respect human rights.

No matter what the outcome in Ukraine, there should be no return to normal for Russia and Belarus until their mad men are gone.

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UKRAINE

From Page 8

be far greater than those of any other country, published "We Shall Not Forgive!" a book filled with grisly Nazi-taken photos.

Like the Soviets who, 80 years ago, desperately conveyed their struggle to the West, Zelenskyy today aims to mobilize greater military intervention in support of his country. Whether he succeeds remains to be seen. But success or failure will primarily depend on geopolitical considerations and political will, regardless of how devastating the Ukrainian images are.

I have to in all honesty tell you I had completely forgotten writing this group of four poems. I'm also assuming due to the completion date of the last one that they might have appeared in the Saipan Tribune around this date during National Poetry Month in 2014.

The coincidence, the timing, the similarities in historical fact is truly amazing. Let us hope and pray for cessation of the bombing, deaths, and the safety of Ukrainian people.

A Sister Country in Crisis

(a villanelle for Ukraine & Crimea, written between Feb. 14 to March 14, 2014)

A sister country in crisis
its neighbor giving it a shove
using military vices
borders cut up into slices
from the cold east and from above
a sister country in crisis
big bear heeds its own advices
little bear squeezed by iron glove
has no nuclear devices
Tatars rank lower on indices
now back in the country they love
a sister country in crisis
Putin plays chess, cool cat and mices
carefully plotting every move
using military vices
eagle opens its orifice
and offers up a peaceful dove
neighboring countries feel crisis
money lost in trade crevices.

Haiku for Ukraine and Crimea

(March 21, 2014)

been through this before
mother bear shuts the door
Tatars home at last
Ukrainian cold spring
raining down in Crimea

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

As many of you know, I recently celebrated my 90th birthday at a gathering held at the Kensington Hotel Saipan on April 2, 2022. I thank the Lord for blessing me with a long, happy, and healthy life. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to family and friends here on Saipan and around the world for all your good wishes that I received.

I also want to acknowledge everyone who joined my celebration last week, but please forgive me if I miss anyone—we can all blame that on my age!

I would like to thank the Most Reverend Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Rev. Father James Balajadia, Rev. Deacon and Mrs. Jeffrey Camacho for gracing us with your presence at our gathering last week.

I also want to thank and acknowledge all the families who share common family roots with me—the Sablans, Palacios, Semans, Villagomez, Igitols and Pangelinans. Also, thank you to

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Europe twitches
a river of realistic fears
ballistic ethnic fears
Crimean linguistics

A Limerick for Ukraine/Crimea

ex KGB boss Vladimir Putin
had a mouth he seldom put his foot in
he moved on the Crimea quite quickly
now the Ukraine is feeling quite sickly
so far at least no shootin.

A Sonnet for Sevastopol and Crimea

(written March 31, 2014)

Thousands of protesters out in the spring rain
Massed in a city square call out for democracy
In Kiev, the capitol of Ukraine, they all long
To join the European Union and be more free
Their motives - economic mobility - quite noble
After months of protest they get rid of a corrupt boss
Knowing not of coming events in the port of Sevastopol
The entire Crimean peninsula would become a total loss
Putin felt oustering the boss made push comes to shove
And made a checkmate move from his KGB master book
He slipped a classic Communist iron fist into a glove
Annexing the entire Crimea was the chess move he took
Now Russian troops mass on Ukraine's eastern border
As Putin moves his knights and puts all his pawns in order.

my wife, Rita's, family, the Castros and Weavers. Thank you to all the Joeten, Aldan, Pierce, Duenas and Pixley families who joined the festivities! And to all my close friends who celebrated with me and my family, thank you!






I was pleasantly surprised with the commemorative resolutions from our CNMI Senate and House of Representatives. Thank you, Speaker Edmund Villagomez, vice speaker BJ Attao and Sen. Edith De Leon Guerrero for your kind words and beautiful presentations. I was also honored by the presence of our Lt. Gov. Arnold and Mrs. Palacios, but of course he had to come, being my nephew on the Palacios side!

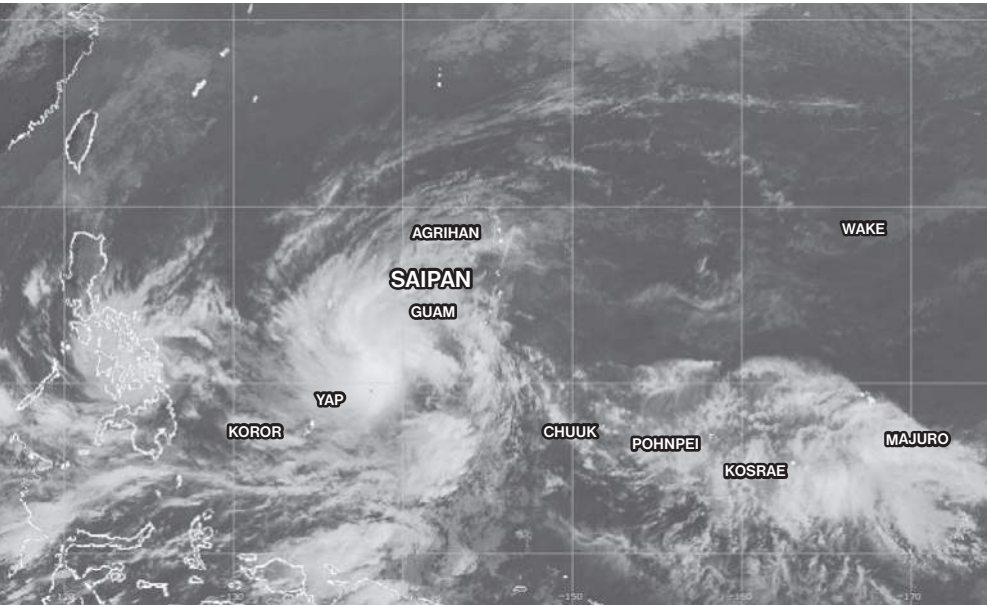
I must also thank Congressman Gregorio Kilili and Mrs. Andrea Sablan for the gift of memorializing the leadership and history of my father, Elias Parong Sablan, in the Congressional Record on Covenant Day, March 24, 2022. It is very much appreciated.

I pray that God will bless each and everyone of you with the same long life, happiness and success bestowed upon me for the last 90 years and hopefully more to come!

David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan
Papago, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and heavy rain.		Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm.		Cloudy, Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm.		Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm.		Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy.	
85°	76°	86°	76°	85°	76°	84°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:52 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows a rain band associated with distant TS Malakas, just SW of Guam, and slowly trying to encroach on the island. Rota, Tinian and Saipan remain under partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers. Winds remain strong, generally 25 to 30 kt, and seas range up to 11 feet at the buoys and in satellite derived sea heights.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms/Wind	28 / 24 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms/Wind	29 / 26 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms/Wind	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:05 AM	18:30 PM
Tuesday	06:05 AM	18:30 PM
Wednesday	06:04 AM	18:31 PM
Thursday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Friday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	02:07 PM	13:38 PM
Tuesday	-	02:51 PM	14:31 PM
Wednesday	-	03:33 PM	15:24 PM
Thursday	-	04:13 PM	16:17 PM
Fridsy	-	04:52 PM	17:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	22 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	28 / 13 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	27 / 22 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	28 / 22 °F	
London	Cloudy	17 / 11 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	21 / 11 °F	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	33 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	AM Light Rain	17 / 12 °F	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	25 / 23 °F	
New York	Partly Cloudy	14 / 10 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	23 / 15 °F	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 10 °F	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 15 °F	
Rome	Sunny	18 / 5 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	25 / 14 °F	
San Francisco	M Rain/Wind	13 / 7 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	26 / 14 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	22 / 15 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	20 / 12 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
04:57 AM	High Tide	1.64	
10:27 AM	Low Tide	1.20	
2:35 PM	High Tide	1.44	
10:04 PM	Low Tide	0.21	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
				7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Deadline to apply for NMC Nursing Program fall cohort nears

Those who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing can apply to become part of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department's newest cohort in the fall 2022 semester. Those who meet the program's requirements can submit their application on or before May 11, 2022.

The selection of students will be based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; completion of all nursing and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher; the ability to understand, speak and write in

English; and a passing score in the program's entrance exam. More information about the program's entrance exam can be found on the NMC website's nursing page.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the class. At this time, the class size will be limited to 30 students. If there is not enough space for all applicants, a wait list will be established.

Students are advised to make an appointment with their nursing adviser via email as soon as possible to discuss prerequi-



NMC

Individuals who are interested in becoming a part of Northern Marianas College's next nursing cohort can submit an application before May 11, 2022. Application forms can be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. For more information, email andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu.

sites and transcripts in order to determine current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

Selection of students for the fall 2022 cohort will be completed before August 2022. A notification letter will be sent to each applicant using the address designated on the application. Application forms may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department via email at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosal.dan@marianas.edu. (NMC)

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC

P.O. BOX 520800, TINIAN, MP 96952 | TEL. (670) 433-4427/4428 | FAX. (670) 433-4428

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

has an opening for:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER (1)

Duties: Analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within the organization.

Qualifications: Four-year bachelor's degree major in accounting. A considerable amount of work-related skills, knowledge and work several years in accounting. Need several years of work-related experience. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office & accounting software)

Worksite Location: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: \$31,824 to \$47,736 / annually; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm; Frequency of Pay: Semi-Monthly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's Compensation is provided.

Closing Date: April 22, 2022

Applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at tinianfuel@yahoo.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • PHONE: (670) 237-6500 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES AIR-SIDE

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning March 18, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Air-Side) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) Project No-CPA-RFP-004-22". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, APRIL 18, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be no Pre-Proposal Conference but proposers will be allowed to do Site Visits by calling CPA Deputy Executive Director, Ed Mendiola at telephone numbers 237-6505 during working hours.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till April 11, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

March 14, 2022



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 8am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/16/2022)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 - A. Letter from Dr. Anne V. Erhard
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Updates on proposed regulations
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
 - Committee on Health and Welfare: HB 22-77, HB 22-80, HB 22-86 and HB 22-87
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. OPA Statement of Financial Interest due May 1st
 - B. Executive Director will be off island from April 27 to May 3, 2022. (FSMB Meeting)
 - C. Next Meeting Date
 - D. Adjournment of Meeting



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2022-003

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: May 02, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

BEACH ROAD REPAIR FROM MONSIGNOR GUERRERO ROAD INTERSECTION TO MICRO BEACH ROAD INTERSECTION

Project package will be available on **March 31, 2022**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the NMHC Central Office Reception Counter in Garapan.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held via video teleconferencing on April 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m., local time (ChST) through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab and on the CDBG DR website at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/>. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-bid Conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel and its implementing partner to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net or fax to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 a.m. April 14, 2022.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-015	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position) RE-ANNOUNCEMENT	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$65,000.00 per annum	April 11, 2022	May 11, 2022 4:00 PM
2022-016	CDBG-DR Project Supervisor (1-Position) RE-ANNOUNCEMENT	UNGRADED \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00 per annum	April 11, 2022	May 11, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2022-004

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: May 03, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Vehicle for the Emergency Housing Voucher Program

The bid package will be available on April 01, 2022, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For any inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before April 15, 2022.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Business

Saipan Musubiya at Kada Dia

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Musubiya opened last April 2 at Kada Dia in Chalan Kanoa to bring inexpensive but quality and delicious Japanese food to the southern part of Saipan.

"People love low-cost, delicious, hygienic (clean), and nutritious traditional Japanese food. Tasty Japanese food was missing in southern Saipan so we decided to open our location in Chalan Kanoa at Kada Dia near the post office to meet the missing Japanese food option," said owner Kazuko Sondheim.

Saipan Musubiya serves many types of musubi and rice bowl dishes at the fraction of the cost of the usual Japanese restaurants and snack bars. However, that doesn't mean Sondheim is scrimping on ingredients as everything they sell at the stall are authentic Japanese food.

"We offer easy, inexpensive, and delicious traditional Japanese food counter with many kinds of musubis, pork rice bowls, and some kinds of sushi. Takeout or sit out front, you're in for a treat for breakfast, lunch, dinner or anytime snacks. You can grab a bite to go or snack out front—the choice is yours."

Sondheim also looks at Saipan Musubiya as a form service to people in the southern part of Saipan. In the past, people have had to drive to Garapan just to enjoy affordable Japanese cuisine.

"Southern villages needed delicious Japanese food too at low prices nearby, especially with gas prices high and other restaurants with expensive prices. There have been no Japanese food restaurants outside of Garapan for more than 10 years," she said.

The newly opened snack bar's bestsellers are its tuna and mayo musubi, Spam and



Saipan Musubiya is located at Kada Dia, a stone's throw away from the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

MARK RABAGO



A box of Saipan Musubiya goodies that include various musubi (rice sandwich) and omusubi (rice ball).

MARK RABAGO

egg musubi, and yakiniku, which is a pork stir-fry bowl.

Currently, Saipan Musubiya has an opening month promotion where you get one musubi free if you purchase five musubis and get three musubis free when you buy 10 musubis. Since opening, Sondheim said, Saipan Musubiya has also given away free water to customers.

Saipan Musubiya is open 8am to 5pm from Monday to Saturday. The Japanese snack counter is also on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

For orders and for more information, call 670-287-6878 (musu).

"Always call in advance and we will never make you wait and warm items will stay fresh and warm," added Sondheim.



S&P downgrades Russia ability to pay debts

BOSTON (AP)—The credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's has downgraded its assessment of Russia's ability to repay foreign debt, signaling rising prospects that Moscow will soon default on external loans for the first time in more than a century.

S&P Global Ratings issued the downgrade to "selective default" late Friday after Russia arranged to make foreign bond payments in rubles on Monday when they were due in dollars. It said it didn't expect Russia to be able to convert the rubles

into dollars within the 30-day grace period allowed.

S&P said in a statement that its decision was based partly on its opinion that sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine "are likely to be further increased in the coming weeks, hampering Russia's willingness and technical abilities to honor the terms and conditions of its obligations to foreign debtholders."

An S&P spokesperson said a selective default rating is when a lender defaults on a specific payment but makes

others on time.

While Russia has signaled that it remains willing to pay its debts, the Kremlin also has warned that it would do so in rubles if its overseas accounts in foreign currencies remain frozen.

Tightened sanctions placed on Russia this week after evidence of alleged war crimes—the killing of civilians in the town of Bucha during Russian military occupation—barred it from using any foreign reserves held in U.S. banks for debt payments.

Nation

Jackson's speech highlights US race struggles, progress

By AARON MORRISON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States."

With those words, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson acknowledged both the struggles and progress of Black Americans in her lifetime.

Her words, delivered from the South Lawn of the White House on Friday, one day after her historic Senate confirmation, were a tribute to generations of Black Americans who she said paved the way for her elevation to the nation's highest court.

"I have now achieved something far beyond anything my grandparents could have possibly ever imagined," Jackson said, noting they had gained only grade-school educations before starting their family and later sending their children to racially segregated schools.

"The path was cleared for me, so that I might rise to this occasion," she said. "And in the poetic words of Dr. Maya Angelou, I do so now."

Quoting Angelou's famous poem, "And Still I Rise," Jackson added: "I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

Nina Turner, a former

Ohio state senator who was a prominent surrogate for Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, said Jackson's speech was an awe-inspiring reminder of



Jackson

how far Black Americans have come amid their ongoing struggle.

"Expressing that realization out loud for all of the world to hear, as she is about to take her place as the first Black woman Supreme Court justice, was just magnificent," said Turner.

"It is vitally important that we, as Black people, continue to remind this nation from whence we came," she said. "The pain that it took to get to a 'Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson' could not be understated."

Jackson, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, said that she has been lucky on her path to the high court. Although her arrival breaks one of the remaining racial barriers in American democracy, many Black Americans still struggle to surmount systemic blocks.

She namechecked the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights icon, as well as

Black federal judicial trailblazers such as Justice Thurgood Marshall and Judge Constance Baker Motley, thanking them for their leadership and role modeling.

"For all of the talk of this historic nomination and now confirmation, I think of them as the true path breakers," Jackson said. "I'm just the very lucky first inheritor of the dream of liberty and justice for all."

Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable, watched Jackson's speech from the White House lawn as an invited guest on Friday. With the sun shining through clouds over Washington, there was a palpable joy in the crowd over what Jackson symbolizes for the country, she said.

"It just felt like the ancestors were dancing."

"I can see myself, in now-Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson," Campbell added. "(Jackson) understands the significance of this moment for Black women, for women, for the nation. And it is a game changer."

ACROSS THE NATION

Whitmer kidnap plot: 2 men acquitted, hung jury for 2 more

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—A jury acquitted two men of all charges in a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer but couldn't reach verdicts against the two alleged leaders, a stunning defeat for the government after a weeklong trial that centered on an FBI sting operation just before the 2020 election. Whitmer's chief of staff critical was critical of Friday's outcome, saying that Americans are "living through the normalization of political violence." Though Whitmer has not commented directly on the proceedings, she alluded to the trial's outcome Saturday while speaking at the Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention in Detroit.

Police: 3 dead in gun range shooting; 40 weapons stolen

ATLANTA (AP)—Police are searching for at least one armed suspect in connection with the killing of the owner of a gun range in Georgia and his wife and grandson, authorities said Saturday. The Grantville Police Department said via Facebook that the robbery occurred Friday evening. When officers arrived at the scene around 8 p.m., they discovered the bodies of the owner of Lock Stock & Barrel Shooting Range, along with his wife and grandson. According to WSB-

TV, Grantville Police identified the victims as the gun range owner, Thomas Hawk, 75; his wife, Evelyn, 75; and their grandson, Luke, 17. Police Chief Steve Whitlock said the Hawk family was well-known and well-respected in their small, tight-knit community. The Hawks had operated Lock Stock & Barrel for nearly 30 years. Their grandson was on spring break, helping his grandparents at the shop.

Woman faces Texas murder charge after self-induced abortion

A 26-year-old woman has been charged with murder in Texas after authorities said she caused "the death of an individual by self-induced abortion," in a state that has the most restrictive abortion laws in the U.S. It's unclear whether Lizelle Herrera is accused of having an abortion or whether she helped someone else get an abortion. Herrera was arrested Thursday and remained jailed Saturday on a \$500,000 bond in the Starr County jail in Rio Grande City, on the U.S.-Mexico border, sheriff's Maj. Carlos Delgado said in a statement. "Herrera was arrested and served with an indictment on the charge of Murder after Herrera did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual by self-induced abortion," Delgado said. (AP)

Asia

Pakistan PM is ousted

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's political opposition toppled Prime Minister Imran Khan in a no-confidence vote in Parliament early Sunday after several political allies and a key party in his ruling coalition deserted him.

The opposition, which spans the political spectrum from leftists to religious radicals, will form a new government. The head of one of the largest parties, a brother of disgraced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, is likely to take over as prime minister if confirmed in a vote Monday.

Anticipating his loss, Khan, who charged the opposition colluded with the United States to unseat him, has called on his supporters to stage rallies nationwide on Sunday. Khan's options are limited, though. Should he see a big turnout in his support, he may try to keep the momentum of street protests as a way to pressure Parliament to hold early elections.

Khan earlier had tried to sidestep the vote by dissolving Parliament and calling early elections but a Supreme Court ruling ordered the vote to go ahead.

The vote comes amid cooling relations between Khan and Pakistan's powerful military, which many of his political opponents allege helped him come to power in general elections in 2018. The military has directly ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 75 years and wields

considerable power over civilian governments.

In seeking Khan's ouster, the opposition had accused him of economic mismanagement as inflation soars and the Pakistani rupee plummets in value. The vote caps months of political turmoil and a constitutional crisis that required the Supreme Court to step in.

In an impassioned speech Friday, Khan doubled down on his accusations that his opponents colluded with the United States to unseat him over his foreign policy choices, which often seemed to favor China and Russia and defied the U.S.

Khan said Washington opposed his Feb. 24 meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. The meeting took place hours after Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, launching a devastating war in the heart of Europe.

Ahead of the vote, a member of Khan's Cabinet referred to an earlier claim by Khan that Pakistani diplomats in Washington were told by a senior U.S. official that relations would improve if Khan was ousted.

Human rights minister Shireen Mazari told Parliament that the purported memo by the U.S. official stated that "all would be forgiven" if Khan was out of power. She went on to ask: "Forgiven for



what? What is our sin?"

The U.S. State Department has denied any involvement in Pakistan's internal politics. Deputy State Department spokeswoman Jalina Porter told reporters on Friday there was "absolutely no truth to these allegations."

Still, Khan urged his supporters to take to the streets, particularly the youth who have been the backbone of his support since the former cricket star turned conservative Islamist politician came to power in 2018. He said they needed to protect Pakistan's sovereignty and oppose alleged U.S. dictates.

"You have to come out to protect your own future. It is you who have to protect your democracy, your sovereignty and your independence. ... This is your duty," he said. "I will not accept an imposed government."

Khan's allegations of U.S. involvement are likely to resonate with many in Pakistan, says Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

"Khan's conspiracy allegations will resonate in a country where there's a tendency to ascribe the worst possible motives to U.S. policy, especially because there is a past history of U.S. meddling in Pakistani politics," said Kugelman.

and placards, some bemoaning the hardships through songs, blamed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his administration for mismanaging the crisis. He has remained steadfast in refusing to step down even after most of his Cabinet quit and loyal lawmakers rebelled, narrowing a path for him to seek a way out as his team prepares to negotiate with international lending institutions. "Go home Rajapaksas" and "We need responsible leadership," read the placards.

Shanghai hospital pays the price for China's COVID response

BEIJING (AP)—A series of deaths at a hospital for elderly patients in Shanghai is underscoring the dangerous consequences of China's stubborn pursuit of a zero-COVID approach amid an escalating outbreak in the city of 26 million people. Multiple patients have died at the Shanghai Donghai Elderly Care hospital, relatives of patients told The Associated Press. They say their loved ones weren't properly cared for after caretakers who came into contact with the virus were taken away to be quarantined, in adherence to the strict pandemic regulations, depleting the hospital of staff. Family members have taken to social media to plea for help and answers and are demanding to see surveillance video from inside the facility after getting little to no information from the hospital.

World

Zelenskyy: Russia aggression not limited to Ukraine alone



Emergency workers carry debris from a multi-storey building destroyed in a Russian air raid at the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war in Borodyanka, close to Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April 9, 2022. AP

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russia is targeting all of Europe with its aggression, and that stopping the invasion of Ukraine is essential for the security of all democracies.

In his late night address to Ukrainians on Saturday, Zelenskyy said that Russian aggression "was not intended to be limited to Ukraine alone" and the "entire European project is a target for Russia." "That is why it is not just the moral duty of all democracies, all the forces of Europe, to support Ukraine's desire for peace," he said. "This is, in fact, a strategy of defense for every civilized state."

His address came as civilians continued to flee eastern parts of the country before an expected onslaught and fire-

fighters searched for survivors in a northern town no longer occupied by Russian forces.

Several European leaders have made efforts to show solidarity with the battle-scarred nation. Zelenskyy thanked the leaders of Britain and Austria for their visits Saturday to Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, and pledges of further support.

He also thanked the European Commission president and Canada's prime minister for a global fundraising event that brought in more than 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) for Ukrainians who have fled their homes.

Zelenskyy repeated his call for a complete embargo on Russian oil and gas, which he called the sources of Russia's "self-confidence and impunity."

"Freedom does not have

time to wait," Zelenskyy said. "When tyranny begins its aggression against everything that keeps the peace in Europe, action must be taken immediately."

More than six weeks after the invasion began, Russia has pulled its troops from the northern part of the country, around Kyiv, and refocused on the Donbas region in the east.

Newly released Maxar satellite imagery collected on Friday showed an 8-mile (13-kilometer) convoy of military vehicles headed south to the Donbas region through the Ukrainian town of Velykyi Burluk.

Western military analysts said an arc of territory in eastern Ukraine was under Russian control, from Kharkiv—Ukraine's second-largest city—in the north to Kherson in the south.

More flee as Ukraine warns of stepped-up Russian attacks

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Civilian evacuations moved forward in patches of battle-scarred eastern Ukraine on Saturday, a day after a missile strike killed at least 52 people and wounded more than 100 at a train station where thousands clamored to leave before an expected Russian onslaught.

In the wake of the attack in Kramatorsk, several European leaders made efforts to show solidarity with Ukraine, with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visiting Kyiv—the capital city that Russia failed to capture and where troops retreated

days ago. Johnson met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a surprise visit in which he pledged new military assistance, including 120 armored vehicles and new anti-ship missile systems.

Zelenskyy noted the increased support in an Associated Press interview, but expressed frustration when asked if weapons and other equipment Ukraine has received from the West is sufficient to shift the war's outcome.

"Not yet," he said, switching to English for emphasis. "Of course it's not enough."

Zelenskyy later thanked Johnson and Nehammer during his nightly video ad-

dress to the nation. He also thanked the European Commission president and the Canadian prime minister for a global fundraising event that raised more than 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) for Ukrainians who have had to flee their homes. He added that democratic countries are united in working to stop the war. "Because Russian aggression was not intended to be limited to Ukraine alone. ... The entire European project is a target for Russia."

Zelenskyy repeated his call for a complete embargo on Russian oil and gas, which he called the sources of Moscow's "self-confidence and impunity."

ASIAN BRIEFS

South China Sea issues handled 'properly,' Xi tells Duterte

BEIJING (AP)—Seeking to put a positive spin on a relationship that never quite produced the hoped-for benefits, Chinese leader Xi Jinping told outgoing Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday that the two nations have "properly" handled the sensitive issue of the disputed South China Sea. Xi made his remarks in a phone conversation with Duterte, who nurtured closer ties with Beijing after taking office in 2016. Despite cozier relations, however, sporadic territorial spats have persisted and Beijing has had limited success separating the Philippines from its treaty ally, the United States. Xi made no mention of disputes, saying the sides "have adhered to the important consensus reached, adhered to good-neighborly and friendly cooperation, insisted on properly handling differences, and insisted on working together for common development."

Pressure mounts on Sri Lanka leader to quit as crisis grows

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Thousands of Sri Lankans rallied in the country's main business district and Christian clergy marched in the capital to observe a day of protest on Saturday calling on the debt-ridden nation's president to resign, as anxiety and anger over shortages simmered. Protesters carrying national flags

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



'Stomach flu' on the rise again. 5 things to know

By DON SWEENEY and JULIA MARNIN
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

While COVID-19 cases continue to drop in the U.S., outbreaks of another virus—the stomach flu—are ramping up, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

This comes amid easing virus restrictions nationwide. For most of the U.S., roughly 99.5%, it isn't recommended to wear a mask indoors in public because of low or medium COVID-19 Community Level as of March 31, the CDC says.

Meanwhile, 448 norovirus outbreaks were reported in the U.S. from Aug. 1, 2021, to March 5, 2022, according to the agency. In comparison, that's 370 more outbreaks than reported from Aug. 1, 2020, to March 5, 2021, when 78 stomach virus outbreaks were seen.

With people returning to offices and schools—two of the most common spots for norovirus outbreaks—cases of the stomach flu are getting closer to the numbers reported before the pandemic, according to NBC News.

Dr. Robert Atmar, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, told the outlet that the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions is likely connected to the rise in norovirus infections.

"Battling norovirus while nursing my sick daughter. Worrying when my son goes to school if he will get Covid anxiety levels are reaching breaking point," British art historian Dr. Janina Ramirez wrote April 5 on Twitter. The norovirus "is the most common stom-

ach bug in the UK, affecting people of all ages," according to the Broxbourne Council.

Here's what to know about the stomach flu:

What are noroviruses?

Noroviruses are the most common cause of acute stomach and intestinal infections in the United States, reports the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. It's also sometimes called stomach flu, viral gastroenteritis or the winter vomiting bug. The U.S. reports 19 million to 21 million cases a year. Humans are the only hosts of the virus.

The virus was formerly known as the Norwalk virus because the first known outbreak took place at an elementary school in Norwalk, Ohio, according to norovirus.com. Scientists identified the virus in 1972 from stool samples stored after the outbreak. It was officially renamed norovirus by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

How contagious are noroviruses?

Extremely. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cautions that noroviruses can be transmitted by infected people, contaminated food or water, or just by touching contaminated surfaces. People with a norovirus are most contagious during the illness and for a few days afterward, and the virus can remain in stool for up to two weeks after the illness. The virus can survive temperature extremes, too.

Also, catching a norovirus doesn't help you fight it off



PANUDDA SAENGSUWAN/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Good hygiene is the key to avoiding noroviruses, suggests WebMD.com

later, in part because there are many different types of noroviruses – catching one doesn't protect you from the others.

Where do noroviruses spread?

Cruise ships, nursing homes, daycare centers and schools are common breeding grounds for norovirus – anywhere large numbers of people are packed

in close quarters, basically, reports the CDC. Outbreaks on cruise ships frequently make the news, and there are countless travel websites dedicated to tracking cruise lines with the worst records for the illness.

What are the symptoms of a norovirus?

Diarrhea, cramps and vomiting usually start within 12 to

48 hours of exposure to the virus, says the Mayo Clinic. Norovirus symptoms normally last one to three days, and most people recover without treatment. But infants, older adults and people with chronic illnesses may require medical attention for dehydration.

Since it's a virus, antibiotics aren't any help, and there are no antiviral drugs for noroviruses.

The Mayo Clinic advises that people with norovirus take special care to replace fluids lost by vomiting or diarrhea to prevent dehydration. Drinks like Pedialyte are good for young children, while sports drinks and broths are suggested for adults. But sugary drinks, like sodas and fruit juices, can make diarrhea worse, while alcohol or caffeinated drinks can speed dehydration.

How can you avoid noroviruses?

Good hygiene is the key to avoiding noroviruses, suggests WebMD.com. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, particularly after using the bathroom and before preparing food. Alcohol-based cleaners are not as effective. The site also advises carefully throwing away contaminated items, such as dirty diapers.

Wash raw fruits and vegetables, and cook oysters and other shellfish. Clean and disinfect surfaces with a mixture of detergent and chlorine bleach after someone's sick, WebMD says. And if you catch a norovirus, don't prepare food for at least two to three days after you feel better.

What's the best tool for preventing cancer?

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

April is recognized as National Cancer Control Month, dedicated to raising awareness for cancer prevention and treatment.

One of the best tools to prevent cancer is regular screening. Dr. Christine Klassen, director of the Mayo Clinic Breast Clinic, says mammo-

grams are a good example.

"Early diagnosis is going to give patients the best outcomes. We know that if a tumor is caught early and it's still contained in the breast, that outcomes are really very good," says Dr. Klassen.

And early diagnosis usually starts with a mammogram.

"Screening mammogram is still our standard recommendation for breast cancer detec-

tion. And we do recommend that screening mammograms be done regularly every one to two years," she says.

Mayo Clinic recommends mammograms begin at age 40. And, for patients with dense breasts, Dr. Klassen recommends additional screening.

"There are several options for women who have dense breast tissue to do a little bit

additional imaging and help the radiologist really see if there's anything small occurring in the breast."

Dr. Klassen says 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in the U.S. And it's important that all have access to regular screening.

"By giving women the opportunity to have that routine screening mammogram on a regular basis, we're going to improve their outcomes."

Healthy Living

Hunger reducer

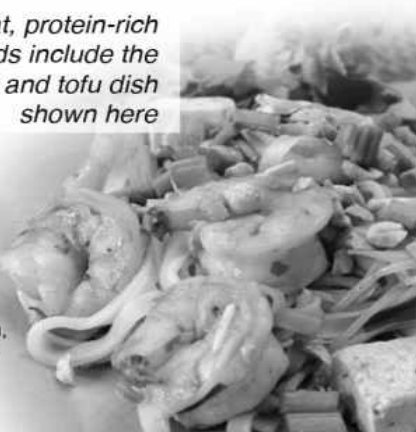
Eating low-fat protein makes you feel less hungry and may help you lose weight.

Pumping up the glucose

- Protein increases glucose production in small intestine
- Liver detects glucose, signals brain that stomach is full

Low-fat, protein-rich foods include the shrimp and tofu dish shown here

Source:
Cell
Metabolism,
TNS Photo
Service



ON NUTRITION: Mother cows teach us valuable life lessons

By BARBARA INTERMILL
MONTEREY HERALD

It's calving season, my favorite time of year on the ranch.

I never get tired of watching a cow know instinctively just what to do when her time approaches. First, she finds a private place in the pasture away from the herd. Then she delivers her baby, usually with no help from us, thank you very much.

Right after birth, she licks her newborn clean. Then she stands by patiently as he struggles to his feet and wobbles to her side to find his first nourishment. It's a true miracle.

We humans have somewhat different views on pregnancy. We prefer a clean hospital bed to a grassy pasture. And after delivery, we let the nurses clean up our newborns.

The basics of reproducing another life are similar, though. Certain ingredients are required to build a strong healthy baby. And if one or more of those components are missing, it could affect that new human for the rest of their life.

Our cows get plenty of exercise. Fresh water is readily available from our windmills. And their pasture diet is supplemented with protein and minerals recommended by an animal nutritionist in our community.

Pregnant women don't usually live in a pasture, but they do need regular exercise, fresh water and a nutrient-packed diet supplemented with specific nutrients. One critical B vitamin, for example, is folate (also known as folic acid). It's needed in the early weeks of pregnancy, often before a woman realizes she is pregnant.

If folic acid is not supplied adequately during the first eight weeks of pregnancy when baby's brain and spinal cord begin to develop, serious birth defects called neural tube defects can happen. That's why the Centers for Disease Control advises any woman of childbearing age to get at least 400 micrograms of folic acid a day. This increases to 600 mcg during pregnancy.

Food sources of folate include leafy greens such as spinach, as well as dried beans and peas. Also of note: Since 1998, breads, cereals, flour, pasta, rice and other grain products in the United States are enriched with folic acid.

When their pasture grass loses its green in the winter, we feed our pregnant cows additional protein and minerals. Likewise, a woman needs additional protein

and calcium in her second and third trimesters of pregnancy. She will also need a prenatal vitamin throughout her pregnancy to supply other key nutrients for building a better baby.

Behind the inspiring scene of frolicking calves with their watchful mothers is the real work ranchers put in to care for each cow during her nine-month pregnancy. Human moms needs support, too. Follow your doctor's advice and check out a personal food plan for pregnancy and breastfeeding at www.mypate.gov/life-stages/pregnancy-and-breastfeeding.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Life & Style

Will Smith gets 10-year Oscars ban over Chris Rock slap

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The motion picture academy on Friday banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars or any other academy event for

10 years following his slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards.

The move comes after a meeting of the academy's

Board of Governors to discuss a response to Smith's actions.

"The 94th Oscars were meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our

community who did incredible work this past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behavior we saw

Mr. Smith exhibit on stage," the academy said in a statement.

"I accept and respect the Academy's decision," Smith said in response. He pre-emptively resigned from the academy last week during the run-up to the meeting, calling his actions "shocking, painful, and inexcusable."

Smith will keep the Oscar he won after the slap, and he will remain eligible to be nominated for and to win more of them in the 10-year period, though he can't show up to accept them.

The academy also apologized for its handling of the situation and allowing Smith to stay and accept his best actor award for "King Richard."

"During our telecast, we did not adequately address the situation in the room. For this, we



Smith

are sorry," the academy said. "This was an opportunity for us to set an example for our guests, viewers and our Academy family around the world, and we fell short—unprepared for the unprecedented."

In a statement in the days following the Oscars, the academy said Smith was asked to leave the ceremony but refused.

But it's not clear how the message was delivered to Smith or what form it took, and several media outlets reported that he was never formally told to leave the Dolby Theatre. The Los Angeles Times reported in a story Thursday that Oscars producer Will Packer told Smith: "Officially, we don't want you to leave. We want you to stay."

Jennifer Lopez posts 'special story,' an engagement ring

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Lopez has an engagement ring on her finger, and Ben Affleck may be the one who put it there.

"So, I have a really exciting and special story to share," a giggling Lopez said in a video posted Friday on her Twitter feed. She said more could be found on the website for her "inner circle," OnTheJLo.com, which requires visitors to sign up.

A video posted there showed an emotional Lopez gazing at the left-hand ring, which held a large green gem that matched her tank top.

Lopez's representatives declined to confirm an engage-

ment, directing inquiries to the actor-singer's online post. A representative for Affleck didn't respond to a request for comment Saturday.

Lopez and Affleck rekindled their romance 17 years after they broke off their engagement in 2004. The pair, who met making the 2003 movie "Gigli," had moved on to other marriages and divorce before going public with their reunion last year.



Cast member Jennifer Lopez, right, and Ben Affleck attend a photo call for a special screening of "Marry Me" at DGA Theater on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in Los Angeles.

AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Accused shooter in Lady Gaga dog theft mistakenly freed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A gunman accused of shooting and seriously wounding Lady Gaga's dog walker and stealing her two French bulldogs was mistakenly released from jail and is being sought, authorities said Friday. James Howard Jackson, 19, was facing an attempted murder charge when he was released from Los Angeles County's jail on Wednesday "due to a clerical error," the county Sheriff's Department said in a statement. The sheriff's Major Crimes Bureau is Major Crimes Bureau is working on finding him, the statement said. Jackson is one of five people arrested in connection with the Feb. 24, 2021,

attack in Hollywood. Prosecutors said Jackson and two other alleged gang members had driven around looking for expensive French bulldogs to steal, then spotted, tailed and robbed Ryan Fischer as he walked Lady Gaga's dogs near Sunset Boulevard. During a violent struggle, Fischer was hit, choked and then shot in an attack captured by the doorbell camera of a nearby home.

Kevin Spacey asks judge to axe Anthony Rapp's sex abuse suit

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Kevin Spacey asked a judge Friday to throw out actor Anthony Rapp's sex abuse lawsuit, saying through his lawyers that allegations that he abused the then-teenage Rapp at a 1980s party are false. The lawyers

wrote in papers filed in Manhattan federal court that the alleged events Rapp described never occurred. Rapp has appeared in "Rent" on Broadway and in "Star Trek: Discovery" on television. He alleged in his lawsuit that he went to a party in 1986 at Spacey's Manhattan home, where a 26-year-old Spacey, without Rapp's consent, "engaged in a sexual advance" by grabbing Rapp's buttocks and lifting him onto a bed and laying on his body. Rapp claimed he "was forced to extricate himself" before leaving the party. Spacey's lawyers argued the alleged encounter cannot qualify as sexual abuse under New York's laws because the only alleged contact with an "intimate" part of the body by Spacey was when his hand grazed the 14-year-old Rapp's

buttocks when the older actor picked him up.

David Letterman thanks hospital for the way it treated him

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—If David Letterman put together a Top Ten list of hospitals, Rhode Island Hospital would probably be No. 1. The longtime host of "The Late Show with David Letterman," who stepped down in 2015, thanked the staff of the hospital's emergency department in a video Thursday in which he disclosed that he was visiting Providence with his son last August when he fell on the sidewalk, struck his head, and fell unconscious. "The ambulance comes and picks me up. They take me and my son in the ambulance to the

emergency room and they stitch me up, they X-rayed my head, they gave me a CT scan, they scrubbed me up," Letterman, 74, says in the roughly one-minute long video posted to YouTube by Lifespan, the hospital's parent company. Someone brushed his teeth and he got some fresh clothes, he said. He says the experience was scary at the time, but the staff put him at ease.

Boris Becker found guilty over bankruptcy, could face jail

LONDON (AP)—Tennis great Boris Becker could face a jail sentence after being found guilty on Friday of illicitly moving thousands of dollars from a bank account after he was declared bankrupt. A jury

at London's Southwark Crown Court convicted Becker on four charges under the Insolvency Act, including removal of property, concealing debt and two counts of failing to disclose estate. The German star was found to have transferred hundreds of thousands of pounds (dollars) after his June 2017 bankruptcy from his business account to other accounts, including those of his ex-wife Barbara and estranged wife Sharlely "Lilly" Becker. He was also convicted of failing to declare a property in Germany and hiding an 825,000 euro (\$895,000) bank loan and shares in a tech firm. He was acquitted on 20 other counts, including charges that he failed to hand over his many awards, including two Wimbledon trophies and an Olympic gold medal.

Support exists for those impacted by sex addiction

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Broken-Hearted in Oregon" (Jan. 13), whose partner is pursuing recovery from porn addiction, and "Fading in Washington" (Feb. 1), whose husband is likely watching porn, is displaying narcissistic tendencies and belittling his wife's appearance and age. Please suggest these women seek appropriate support to deal with it. If either of the men were abusing drugs or alcohol or gambling excessively, you would have told the spouse to seek out a 12-step group like Al-Anon. Well, there are support groups for sex and porn addicts, as well as their partners.

My ex-husband kept his sex and porn addictions from me during our marriage. But after one affair (that I knew of) and twice discovering his constant use of the internet to view porn and enter chat rooms, I realized the man I thought I knew had a secret life that did not include intimacy with me. It left me shattered, disillusioned and horrified.

There is great shame associated with this "disease." I was fortunate to find two 12-step programs for co-dependents of sex addicts -- S-Anon and COSA, a group in which I continue to engage although my marriage is over.

There is help out there for partners like me. I have learned a great deal about the conditions that set the stage for future addic-

tion, and also my own co-dependency that led me into that relationship and caused me to turn a blind eye to what was happening.

The abuse of pornography is a crisis in our society. Please encourage your readers to seek information about porn and sex addiction by Googling "Is my partner a sex addict?" and learning more about COSA and S-Anon, as well as consult a therapist who recognizes and understands this problem.

RECOVERING IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR RECOVERING: Thank you for writing. I'm pleased the support groups you cited helped you. Readers, COSA (cosa-recovery.org) is a 12-step program for people whose lives have been affected by compulsive sexual behavior. S-Anon (sanon.org) helps individuals connect with others who have also experienced the effects of someone's sex addiction and found a way forward. If you find yourself in the kind of situation "Recovering" has described, I urge you to seek support.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been with a divorced man for almost two years now. He has told me several times he will always be there for his ex-wife regardless of what she may need. He often reminisces about his life and is constantly telling me about places he has been and things he has done which include her.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I have talked to him about how it makes me feel, and his answer is, "That's life." He says he is who he is and will never change. He swears he is no longer in love with his ex-wife. I wish I could believe it. What should I do?

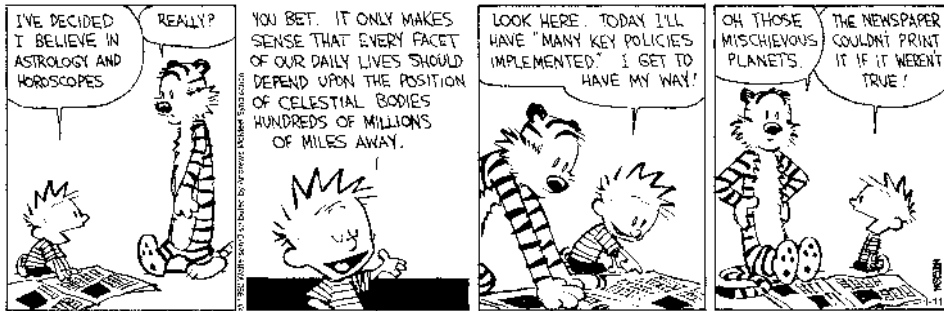
OTHER WOMAN IN OREGON

DEAR OTHER WOMAN: Understand that you are involved with a man who loves reliving his past, regardless of how it affects you. What a bore he must be. Since you asked, I'm suggesting you find someone who prefers looking forward rather than looking backward and who is more stimulating company. This person is too dismissive of your feelings for my taste.

Pastimes

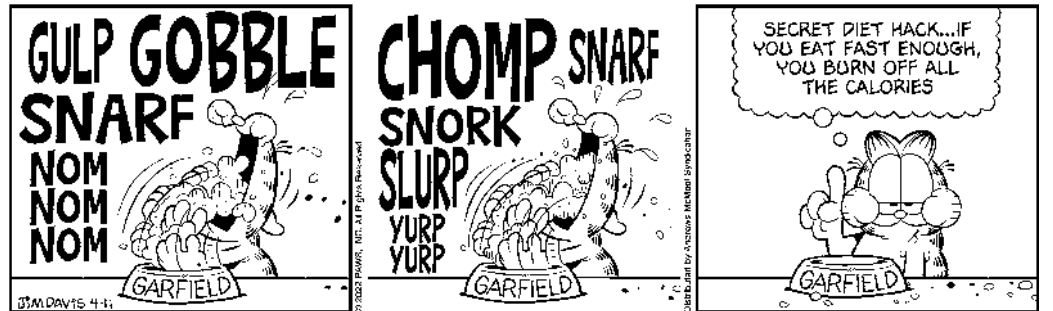
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Big bird
4 "In what way?"
7 Vague
11 Vincent van —
13 CIA operative
14 Footnote abbr.
15 "That's — ask"
16 Actress Long
17 Openings
18 Stoop (to)
20 Engrave
22 Boater, e.g.
24 Russian sleigh
28 Blotto
32 Big name in racing
33 Body powder
34 Hamilton bill
36 Flag
37 Hello hello
39 Purplish red
41 "Scram!"
43 Spell-down
44 Shrek, for one

DOWN

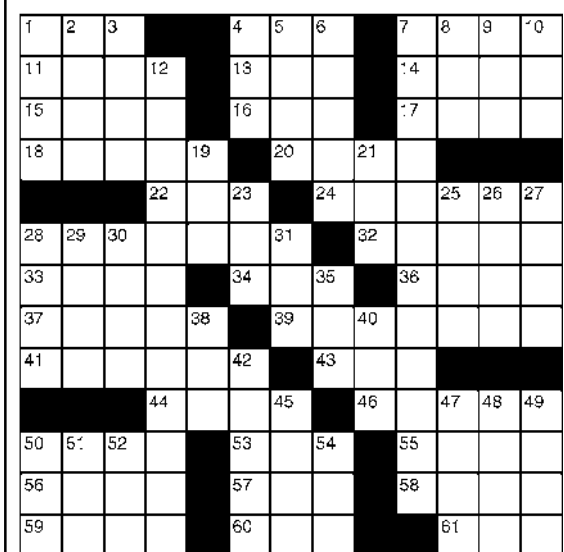
46 Chicago airport
50 Hennessy of "Law & Order"
53 Ecol.
55 Sea predator
56 Writer Wiesel
57 Big shot
58 Equipment
59 Olympic figure skater
60 Freezer Johnny
61 Nine-digit ID

2 Embed-
ded spy
3 Hybrid
fruit
4 QVC
alterna-
tive
5 Mayberry
boy
6 Lawman
Earp
7 How
affluent
people
8 Lawyers'
gp.
9 Energy
stats
10 QB's
prom
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12 Typical
unh"
19 "Unh-
Solution time: 26 mins.

21 French
vineyard
23 Hanoi
holiday
25 Egyptian
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26 Russell
of "Wait-
ress"
27 Vicinity
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28 Men-
only
29 Like
ganders
30 Oodles
Dict.
info
35 Gist
abbr.
38 Calendar
bigwig
42 Fountain
of Rome
45 Grand
tale
47 God of
war
48 Some
TVs
49 Deserve
Purim
observer
50 Land in
la mer
52 Half of
CIV
54 Mimic

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

Last Friday's Answer 04/11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Morgan Lily, 22; Eka Darville, 33; Joss Stone, 35; Ana Maria Polo, 63.

Happy Birthday: Put a positive spin on whatever you pursue, and you'll gain respect and support. Patience will give you time to think about the long-term effects of your decisions and encourage you not to act in haste. When uncertainty kicks in, step back, reassess and decide what's best for you. Moderation and a simple lifestyle will ease stress and soothe your soul. Your numbers are 6, 11, 23, 27, 31, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take charge, and finish what you start. Clearing clutter and taking care of unresolved issues will lighten your load and lift your spirits. Do something exhilarating, and it will spark your imagination and set you on a healthy path. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A tacit move will not help matters. Be specific regarding your expectations and what you are willing to offer in return. It may draw out emotions, but that will help you resolve issues swiftly. Make yourself clear, and you'll get results. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of yourself and your responsibilities. Make a change to how you approach situations to ensure you ease stress. A moderate plan will allow you the freedom to manipulate the outcome if necessary. Do the work yourself to avoid disappointment. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Draw on people who have skills that complement what you have to offer. Putting together a

team will help you navigate solutions and free up time to spend with loved ones or pursue a hobby that brings you joy. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick to what you know and do best. Avoid getting involved in something that disrupts your life or harms your reputation. Concentrate on financial matters, and make sure you get the most for your money. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make subtle changes. Try to understand what others need. Take into consideration how best to incorporate what you want into a scenario without slighting someone who counts on you. Keeping the peace will help you fulfill your expectations. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Reach out to people who have something to offer. Collect information and share your thoughts. Don't let laziness set in when making things happen will lead to approval from those you want to impress. Share interests and expenses with someone like-minded. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look at every possibility and situation; you'll come up with a unique way to keep everyone happy. Don't let emotions take over or cause an unnecessary kerfuffle. Strive to be mindful of others without sacrificing what's meaningful to you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take your time. Being impatient will be costly if you aren't diligent when making purchases. Look for a bargain or wait until you can pay for something outright rather than going into debt.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Don't trust a persuasive sales pitch. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider creating changes at home that will make you feel you can relax. A discussion with someone close to you will help resolve an issue bothering you. Honesty is the best policy when it comes to shared accommodations or expenses. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sit tight when in doubt. Keep a watchful eye, but don't feel inclined to make a move just because someone wants to change. Pay attention to what's important to you, and look at the logistics involved in achieving your goal. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Evaluate your position, finances and stress level, and you'll come up with a strategy to lower anxiety by building a secure and robust base. Having a plan in place will encourage you to budget wisely and refuse temptation. ★★★★★

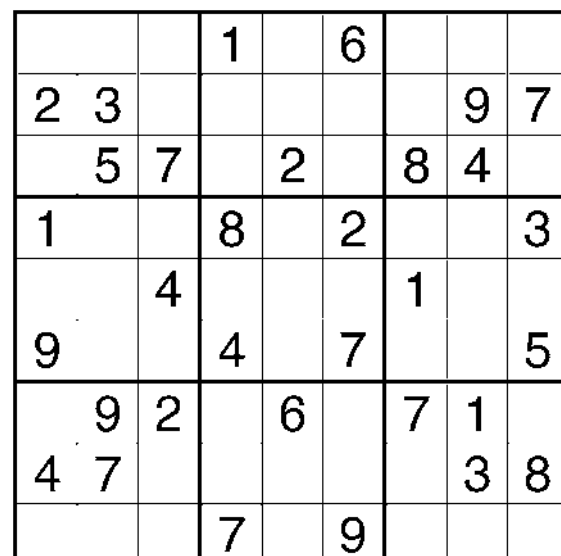
Birthday Baby: You are loyal, dedicated and persistent. You are quick-witted and understanding.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



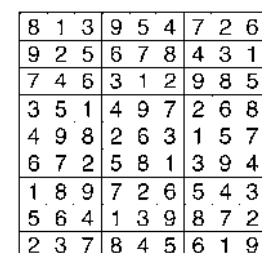
Difficulty Level ★

4/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SONG TITLES WITH A NAME

Solution: 11 letters



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4/11

A Boy Named Sue, Aleandro, Alfie, Alison, Amie, Angie, Annie, Baby Jane, Bertha, Beth, Brandy, Brown, Buddy Holly, Cecilia, Come On Eileen, Daniel, Darling Nikki, Delilah, Irs, Jayne, Johnny B, Jolene, Josie, Joy, Last, Laura, Layla, My Michelle, Nancy, Nikita, Ode to Billy Joel, Rock, Romeo, Ronnie, Rosanna, Roxanne, Runaround Sue, Sara, Song

Last Friday's Answer: Parking

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Ja Morant returns to help Grizzlies rout Pelicans, 141-114

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Ja Morant had 21 points and nine assists in his return from soreness in his right knee, Dillon Brooks scored 23 points and the Memphis Grizzlies routed the New Orleans Pelicans 141-114 on Saturday night to tie the 2012-13 franchise record for victories in a season at 56.

After missing nine games, Morant played almost 27 minutes as the second-seeded Grizzlies got their starting lineup back together in preparation for the postseason. They will close the regular season at home against Boston on Sunday night.

Morant had not played since he was injured in a loss at Atlanta on March 18.

"Being out there with my team is something I've been waiting on since March 19," Morant said, referring to the day after his injury. "I was finally able to do that. Excited to be out there. Had a lot of fun. Just preparing for this stretch we're about to go on in the playoffs."

Brandon Clarke added 20 points for Memphis, making all 10 of his field goal attempts. Ziaire Williams had 19 points, and Desmond Bane had 18. Bane was 6 of 7 on the night, including making all four 3-point attempts. The Grizzlies shot better than 60% through three quarters. They snapped a two-game losing streak.

CJ McCollum led New Orleans with 16 points but was 6 of 17 from the field. Willy Hernangomez added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Jaxson Hayes had 13 points.

"It was a tough night. Tough night for CJ. Tough night for me. Tough night for our group," Pelicans coach Willie



Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) handles the ball under the basket during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans on Saturday, April 9, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn.

Green said.

"It just felt like they were more ready than us," Hayes added. "They came out aggressive. Got up into us and just kind of pressured us the whole game. It was hard to get anything going."

Trying to secure the ninth seed for the play-in tournament, the Pelicans played without scoring leader Brandon Ingram. He's missed his second straight game because of hamstring tightness.

Memphis dominated through the middle stages. By the end point of the third quarter, the lead had reached

39, and Memphis was shooting 64% overall and 60% from 3-point range, connecting on 15 of 25 from distance. Memphis scored a franchise-record 55 points in the third quarter, giving the Grizzlies a 119-80 lead heading into the fourth.

Memphis was 20 of 26 shooting in the third, making 7 of 10 from 3-point range and handing out 16 assists in the period alone. Pelicans coach Green said the third quarter was a bad sign, but more of a continuation of problems for New Orleans throughout the night.

"The whole game we could

have been better," Green said. "The third quarter was by far our worst."

For Memphis, which did not play well in a loss last Thursday to Denver, the performance was a return to style the Grizzlies played before the two-game losing streak. And with a full complement of starters

"All we need to do is attention to detail, know player personnel and give effort," Brooks said.

76ers 133, Pacers 120

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid made his closing argument

for MVP votes and all but wrapped up the NBA scoring title, finishing with 41 points and 20 rebounds in Philadelphia's victory over Indiana.

Embiid shot 14 for 17 from the floor, went 11 of 15 from the foul line and made of both his 3-point attempts in a game that Philadelphia needed to win to remain alive for the third seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

James Harden added 22 points and 14 assists for Philadelphia.

Oshae Brissett scored 20 points for Indiana. The Pacers have lost nine straight.

Warriors 100, Spurs 94

In San Antonio, Jonathan Kuminga and Jordan Poole each had 18 points and Golden State won its fourth straight, beating San Antonio to strengthen its hopes for a top-three seed.

Golden State is a game ahead of Dallas in the Western Conference and can secure the third seed with a victory Sunday at New Orleans in the season finale. If the Warriors lose, and the Mavericks beat the Spurs on Sunday, Dallas will finish third after going 3-1 in its season series with Golden State.

Lonnie Walker IV had 24 points for the Spurs. San Antonio will finish 10th in the Western Conference and must travel to ninth-seeded New Orleans for the opener of the play-in tournament Wednesday.

Clippers 117, Kings 98

In Los Angeles, Paul George scored 23 points, Ivica Zubac had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Los Angeles beat Sacramento for its fourth straight victory.

Norman Powell added 20 points off the bench for the Clippers, who will face Minnesota on Tuesday in the play-in tournament. A victory would send Los Angeles to the postseason for the fourth straight year and a first-round matchup against Memphis.

A loss to the Timberwolves would have the Clippers meeting either New Orleans or San Antonio on Friday with one more chance to make the playoffs. The winner of that game would then get the top-seeded Phoenix Suns.

Davion Mitchell led Sacramento with 22 points.

Last Day: Embiid closing in history, NBA matchups to be set

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Joel Embiid is about to make a lot of history. And a half-dozen first-round or play-in game matchups are set to be decided.

The final day of the NBA season has no shortage of storylines.

A new scoring champion will be crowned and, barring something crazy, Embiid — who hails from Cameroon — will become the first international player to win that title. The Philadelphia big man would also be the first center to win the scoring crown since Shaquille O'Neal in 1999-2000.

Embiid scored 41 points Saturday in Philadelphia's 133-120 win over Indiana. He's now averaging 30.6 points for the season, which is just ahead of LeBron James'

30.3-point-per-game clip for the Los Angeles Lakers and Kevin Durant's 30.1 average for the Brooklyn Nets.

But neither James nor Durant will play enough games to qualify for the statistical title; in an 82-game season, 58 games played is the minimum. That means the scoring race comes down to Embiid and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, the star from Greece — also bidding to be the first international NBA scoring champion — who would need a miracle finish to grab the crown.

If Embiid plays in the 76ers' regular-season finale against Detroit and didn't score — which is unlikely — Antetokounmpo would still need

47 points in the Bucks' finale at Cleveland to take the lead. If Embiid doesn't play at all Sunday, Antetokounmpo would need 77 points to tie

Embiid for the crown.

Antetokounmpo is averaging 29.9 points entering the season's final day.

EAST RACE

Miami is the No. 1 seed. Toronto is the No. 5 seed. Chicago is the No. 6 seed. Everything else remains unclear.

Philadelphia's win over Indiana on Saturday means that the Sixers will be either No. 3 or No. 4. Boston or Milwaukee will be No. 2; the Bucks lock up that spot with a win at Cleveland on Sunday but are planning to rest many of their regulars. Boston can get to No. 2 by winning at Memphis and the Cavaliers beating the Bucks.

EAST PLAY-IN RACE

All that is certain is Atlanta cannot finish 7th and Brooklyn cannot finish 10th. The Nets can be No. 7, No. 8 or

No. 9 — and the Hawks can be No. 8, No. 9 or No. 10. Cleveland and Charlotte will be in there, too, in some order.

There are four Sunday games that will tell the tale, all 3:30 p.m. Eastern starts: Indiana at Brooklyn, Milwaukee at Cleveland, Washington at Charlotte and Atlanta at Houston.

The Nets would be No. 7 with a win and might get there with a loss as well. Cleveland would be no worse than No. 8 with a win. The Cavaliers and Hornets could each be 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th seeds.

WEST RACE

Phoenix is the No. 1 seed, Memphis is the No. 2 seed. Dallas and Golden State will be No. 3 and No. 4 — in some order. And Denver and Utah will be No. 5 and No. 6 — again, in some order.

Golden State would be locked into No. 3 with a win Sunday at New Orleans.

Utah will be the No. 5 seed with a win over Portland on Sunday, or if the Los Angeles Lakers beat Denver in the regular-season finale for those teams.

WEST PLAY-IN RACE

These are the only matchups and sites that are locked are so far.

The Los Angeles Clippers will play at Minnesota on Tuesday night, with the winner getting the No. 7 seed and a first-round series with the Grizzlies.

The other West play-in game will have New Orleans playing host to San Antonio in the 9 vs. 10 matchup on Wednesday night. The winner of that game plays the Clippers-Timberwolves loser

on Friday to see who'll face Phoenix in Round 1

THREES WERE DOWN

For the first time in a decade, the NBA won't set a 3-pointers-made record — at least not in terms of average.

Teams are making 12.4 3s per game this season, down slightly from the 12.7 per game last season. The 2020-21 season was the ninth straight in which the 3s-per-game average had increased to a record.

The record for 3s taken per game will be broken again, for the 11th consecutive season. And total 3s made in a season is another record, with the league going over the 30,000 mark for the first time on Friday night.

All that said, the 3-point craze is still officially happening. The league will take somewhere between 86,000 and 87,000 3s this season by the close of business on Sunday. That's almost double what was taken 11 years ago.

Stanton homers vs Boston again, Yankees win, 4-2

NEW YORK (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton became the first player to homer against Boston in six straight games, hitting a tiebreaking, two-run drive in the sixth inning that gave the New York Yankees a 4-2 win over the Red Sox on Saturday.

Anthony Rizzo homered for the second straight day to start New York's comeback from an early deficit, a tying two-run drive in the fourth. Luis Severino made his first start for the Yankees since the 2019 AL Championship Series as the Yankees improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2018.



Stanton broke a 2-2 tie when he drove an 0-1 slider from Nick Pivetta (0-1). Stanton and Rizzo became the first players in Yankees history to homer together in both of a season's first two games.

a strong Los Angeles debut, narrowly outdueling fellow Tommy John surgery returnee Justin Verlander.

Mike Trout and Jared Walsh homered in the Angels' first victory of the season. The Halos held defending AL champion Houston to two hits, with Raisel Iglesias' save capping 3 2/3 hitless innings from the bullpen.

Syndergaard (1-0) and Verlander (0-1) both are back this season from lengthy absences after elbow surgery, and both veterans performed impressively at Angel Stadium.

Syndergaard yielded two weak singles and two walks over 5 1/3 innings. While the imposing right-hander known as Thor had just one strikeout, he induced 11 groundouts from the Astros' powerful lineup.

Mets 5, Nationals 0

In Washington, Pete Alonso twirled his bat when his first career grand slam broke a scoreless tie in the fifth inning, then put his index fingers to his mouth as if hushing the crowd after celebrating with teammates near the plate, propelling New York over Washington.

Chris Bassitt (1-0) cruised through six innings in his Mets debut, and New York won its third straight to open Buck Showalter's tenure as manager.

The Mets have outscored Washington 17-4 and go for a series sweep Sunday.

About 48 hours removed from getting his lower lip bloodied by a pitch — part of a string of Mets who have been plunked during the season's first three games, leading to a benches-clearing interruption Friday — Alonso sent a 91 mph fastball from Joan Adon (0-1) over the fence in left on a 2-1 count.

Blue Jays 4, Rangers 3

In Toronto, pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning. Bo Bichette hit a solo home run and Toronto beat Texas.

George Springer and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. each had two hits, and Bichette scored twice as the Blue Jays improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2016.

Facing left-hander Brett Martin (0-1), Espinal hit for Cavan Biggio with a runner at first and two out. Speedy Raimel Tapia scored without a play at the plate on Espinal's double to left-center.

Angels 2, Astros 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Noah Syndergaard pitched two-hit ball into the sixth inning in

Marlins 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Jesús Sánchez hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, and Miami held on to beat San Francisco despite a strong outing from starter Carlos Rodón in his Giants debut.

The All-Star left-hander struck out 12 and allowed one run in five innings. His Ks are the most by a Giants pitcher through five innings since at least 1974.

Miami starter Pablo López, winless in six starts against the Giants, retired 14 of the first 15 and allowed one run in five innings with six strikeouts and one walk. Sánchez's hit came off Jake McGee (0-1).

Steven Okert (1-0) struck out all four batters he faced to win. Anthony Bender earned his first save after allowing a leadoff single in the ninth.

Cubs 9, Brewers 0

In Chicago, Seiya Suzuki drove in three runs for his first big league RBIs and Chicago beat Milwaukee for a testy win during which five batters were hit by pitches and the benches cleared.

The teams exchanged words but no punches in the eighth after Andrew McCutchen was hit by a pitch from Cubs reliever Keegan Thompson, who was ejected for the first time in his career. As McCutchen slowly headed to first base while looking at Thompson, players from both bullpens ran onto the field.

Justin Steele (1-0) struck out five in five scoreless innings for the rebuilding Cubs. The left-hander was 4-4 with a 4.26 ERA in his first major league season in 2021.

Brandon Woodruff (0-1) struggled for the reigning NL Central champions. The right-hander allowed seven runs, six hits and three walks, striking



New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run off Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Nick Pivetta in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 9, 2022, in New York.

out two in 3 2/3 innings for his shortest outing since Aug. 12, also against the Cubs.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 2

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado hit three doubles and a single, Paul DeJong homered and St. Louis, minus its rookie manager, beat Pittsburgh.

Oliver Marmol, a winner in his debut Thursday as a major league manager, was at Busch Stadium before the game and diagnosed with the flu. He tested negative for COVID-19 and left the ballpark, and bench coach Skip Schumaker filled in.

Relievers Kody Whitley (1-0), Nick Wittgren, T.J. McFarland and Ryan Helsley and Giovanny Gallegos combined to throw 5 1/3 scoreless innings.

Mitch Keller (0-1) allowed four runs on six hits and two walks in four innings.

Mariners 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Ty France had three hits and drove in two runs, including a go-ahead single in the ninth inning that lifted Seattle over Minnesota.

Byron Buxton had given the Twins a 3-2 lead with a two-run homer in eighth against Andrés Muñoz (1-0), who got his first big league decision since 2019 with San Diego.

Julio Rodríguez, a 21-year-old rookie, doubled opening the ninth off Tyler Duffey (0-1) for his first major league hit. He scored on a double by Adam Frazier, who came around on France's single.

Diego Castillo struck out two in a perfect ninth for his first save, and the Mariners opened the season with back-to-back wins for the first time since 2019.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 2

In Denver, Connor Joe drove in two runs, including a go-ahead solo homer in the eighth inning, and closer Daniel Bard struck out the side in the ninth to help Colorado beat Los Angeles.

Joe lined a cutter from reliever Blake Treinen (0-1) into the seats in left-center. The Rockies first baseman also had an RBI single in the sixth.

Ryan McMahon also came through in the first when his single scored Kris Bryant, whose slide at the plate knocked the ball out of catcher Austin Barnes' glove.

Colomé gave way to Carlos Estévez (1-0), who retired Max Muncy with the bases loaded to end the threat. Bard fanned Justin Turner, Edwin Ríos and Cody Bellinger to earn the save.

Rays 5, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Francisco Mejía homered and drove in three runs, helping Tampa Bay win its 14th straight against Baltimore.

The two-time defending AL East champions improved to 20-1 against the Orioles since the start of the 2021, and the 14-game winning streak that began last July is the longest against a single opponent in Rays history.

Mejía delivered an RBI single in the second and a two-run homer off Jordan Lyles (0-1) in the third.

Reliever Josh Fleming (1-0) inherited a three-run lead and worked 3 1/3 scoreless innings, while allowing three hits and striking out five. Andrew Kitredge yielded a run-scoring double to Jorge Mateo in the ninth before getting the save.

Royals 1, Guardians 0, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Mo., prized rookie Bobby Witt Jr. made an eye-popping play at third base to nail a runner at the plate in the top of the 10th inning, then Adalberto Mondesi's RBI single in the bottom half lifted Kansas City over Cleveland.

With a runner at third and one out in the Cleveland 10th, Oscar Mercado hit a hard grounder down the line that looked like it might break the scoreless tie. But the 21-year-old Witt, the top-rated prospect in the majors, skidded onto his knees to make a back-handed stop. All in one motion, he made an off-balance throw home, where All-Star catcher Salvador Perez backhanded the ball on the second hop and made a swipe tag to get Owen Miller.

Kyle Isbel began the bottom half as the automatic runner at second base and moved to third on a single by Hunter Dozier. Mondesi followed with his single to center off Emmanuel Clase (0-1).

Snider (1-0) pitched one inning in his major league debut.

Braves 2, Reds 1

In Atlanta, Kyle Wright picked up a World Series ring along with many of his Atlanta teammates, then pitched two-hit ball over six scoreless innings against Cincinnati.

Wright (1-0) struck out six and walked one. He retired 10 consecutive batters before walking Tommy Pham to open the seventh.

A.J. Minter got three straight outs, Darren O'Day pitched a perfect eighth and Will Smith got the save, allowing Tommy Pham's two-

out walk and Joey Votto's RBI single before Aristides Aquino popped out.

Reds right-hander Vladimir Gutierrez (0-1) allowed two runs and on six hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Phillies 4, Athletics 2

In Philadelphia, Kyle Gibson struck out 10 and tossed two-hit ball over seven shutout innings to lead Philadelphia over Oakland.

Nick Castellanos hit his first home run for the Phillies off Cole Irvin (0-1), and Rhys Hoskins and Jean Segura hit back-to-back homers to support Gibson. Gibson (1-0) threw a tidy 82 pitches and walked none in his fourth-career double-digit strikeout game.

Jose Alvarado gave up Stephen Piscotty's RBI single in the eighth to make it 4-1. Corey Knebel allowed Jed Lowrie's RBI single in the ninth and issued the first walk by a Phillies pitcher this season. Knebel still picked up his first save.

White Sox 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Dylan Cease remained unbeaten in 10 career starts against Detroit and Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer for Chicago.

Cease (1-0) allowed one run and two hits in five-plus innings with eight strikeouts and three walks. He is 9-0 against the Tigers.

Aaron Bummer gave up singles to Miguel Cabrera and Jonathan Schoop starting the ninth, then struck out Eric Haase, Spencer Torkelson and pinch-hitter Dustin Garneau for his first save.

Chicago's A.J. Pollock left because of right hamstring tightness after he singled leading off the third and took a wide turn at first.

Detroit's Casey Mize (0-1) allowed four runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Eric Hosmer hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth, Manny Machado added an RBI double and San Diego beat Arizona.

Joe Musgrove threw six good innings for the Padres, giving up two runs on five hits and no walks while striking out eight. Steven Wilson (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win in his MLB debut.

Taylor Rogers, who was recently acquired in a trade with the Twins, earned his second save in two days.

Veteran right-hander Ian Kennedy (0-1) took the loss after giving up both runs in the eighth. The D-backs have just 10 hits through three games this season.



Ja Morant returns to help Grizzlies rout Pelicans, 141-114
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tsunami Saipan, SSC hold second mutual time trial this week
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20 MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matienzo, Muldoon top Half Marathon

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Guam runner Ryan Matienzo and the CNMI's very own Dr. Lily Muldoon won the 2022 Saipan Half Marathon with splendid runs last Saturday that saw over 80 participants tackle the route from Hyatt Regency Saipan to Pacific Islands Club Saipan and back.

The 37-year-old Matienzo made short work of the 21-kilometer course after crossing the finish line just before the entrance to the Micro Beach Pavilion in 1:19:01, which was 18:07 faster than the runner-up Kosuke Sato. The Kingfisher Golf Links general manager finished the race in 1:37:09. Completing the Top

3 was Daniel Stutzman in 1:50:24.

It was the third time Matienzo took part in the event, although in the previous instances he took on the full Saipan Marathon in 2019 and 2020. The latter he finished third overall. The organizing Marianas Visitors Authority, with help from Northern Marianas Athletics,

however, didn't offer the 42-km event this year citing logistical challenges brought about by COVID-19. The event, part of the so-called "Festival of Runs," was altogether shelved in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Matienzo, who grew up in Lipa City, Batangas in the Philippines before moving to Guam, said the results of the Half Marathon was a mixed bag for him.

"It's always an honor to finish first overall. But I was trying to break 1:17 and today it was a little off-weather and there's no one to race so it was hard to push yourself... The course was really flat and I like more of the up-and-down course because it's more challenging... But I really love running here because of the way the race is set up and

See MATIENZO on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Ryan Matienzo, right, and the Dr. Lily Muldoon show off the No. 1 and victory signs, respectively, at the finish line near the Hyatt Regency Saipan near the entrance to the Micro Beach Pavilion after topping 2022 Saipan Half Marathon last Saturday.

Dolphins 1 gets better of Manta Rays 1 in 'rivalry game'

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

In an exhilarating game between longtime rivals Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School in the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 last Thursday, the Dolphins 1 conquered the Manta Rays 1 after three tough that had the

usual partisan home crowd cheering and screaming and rattling the walls of the tightly packed and sweltering MHS Gymnasium.

MHS 1 drew first blood against SSMS 1, 21-16, but the Manta Rays 1 returned the favor in the second set with the same score. In the third and final set, both teams took each other's best punch be-

fore the Dolphins 1 managed to eke out the win, 15-9.

In an interview after the game, MHS 1 coach Don Marshall Davis Cabrera said, "we took the hard way to victory. A lot of errors caused us to kind of get down on ourselves... But when we figured out what we needed to do, we were able to get back

SEE DOLPHINS on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

A Marianas High School 1 player jumps for a spike against Saipan Southern High School 1 during the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 at the MHS Gymnasium last Thursday.

Sergio picks pickleball over tennis and wins

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Buboy "Boyaxs" Sergio left Saipan three years ago and along with moving to the U.S. mainland, the 57-year-old apparently also traded in his tennis racket for a pickleball paddle.

The change in sports, how-

ever, seems to agree with the Bato, Camarines Sur in the Philippines native after the longtime CNMI resident won a YMCA pickleball tournament in Columbus, Mississippi earlier this month.

Sergio was part of a 14-player field in his division that played a round-robin for-

mat. He went on to win five games and totaled 65 points to rule his division as he barely beat the runner-up who had 64 points. The third place player got 58 points.

His most unforgettable shot of the tournament was when he hit the whiffle ball near the sideline and it

See SERGIO on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Buboy "Boyaxs" Sergio receives his prizes, medal, and trophy after winning a YMCA pickleball tournament in Columbus, Mississippi earlier this month.

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DAYS LEFT UNTIL

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

JUNE 17-25, 2022